Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**POLL RESULTS**

Do you plan to wear an orange shirt anytime this week?

Yes-**56**

No-**74**

*Sunday, October 26, 2008*

## INSIDE

**Western Swing**

Scrambling to win the West, Democrat Barack Obama mocked John McCain on Saturday for aggressively trying to distance himself from President Bush.

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**Rising Tension**

Iraq's largest Sunni party said Saturday that it has suspended official contacts with American military personnel and civilians after the killing of a man near Fallujah.

**World...Page 17**

House calls for VA office, clinic on Saipan. **PAGE 3**

LIIDS transferred to Labor. **PAGE 5**

## Duplicated names found on pro monument petition

**By STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The final tally of the signatures on a grassroots petition in support of the Bush administration's bid to establish a national marine monument in the waters around three of the CNMI's northern islands will have to be revised after a

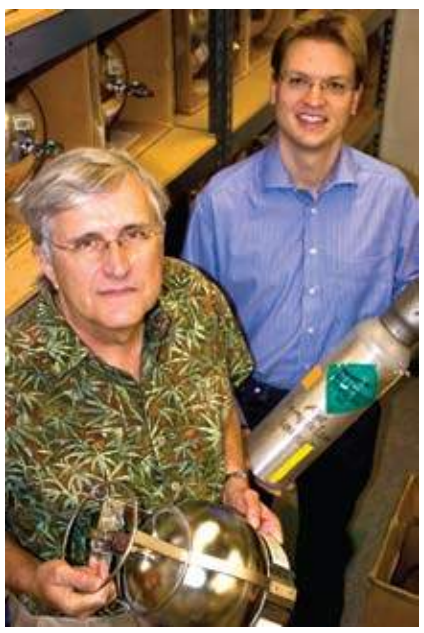
*See DUPLICATED on Page 4*

## Two greenhouse gases on the rise worry scientists

**By SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Carbon dioxide isn't the only greenhouse gas that worries climate scientists. Airborne levels of two other potent gases—one from ancient plants, the other from flat-panel

*See TWO on Page 4*



AP

Scripps Institute geoscientists Ray Weiss, left, and Jens Muehle in San Diego, Calif., amid collection cylinders used to collect air samples from a variety of locations around the world.

# Military buildup continues in face of economic crisis

**By AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The global economic crisis has not had any adverse funding impact on the planned military buildup in the Marianas, but the program's director says it is not unlikely.

Bice

In a meeting with the CNMI Legislature on Friday, the chief of the Joint Guam Program Office said that the multi-billion military expansion program, funded jointly by the U.S. and Japanese governments, continues despite the economic problems facing the United States.

"Right now, we've not seen any impact on [our funding]. But I'm certainly

*See MILITARY on Page 4*

**GRAND PRIZE WINNER** KRISTI EATON

Teresa Palacios won the $20,000 grand prize of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter's 20th Annual Club 200 fundraiser Saturday night. She is seen here holding the giant check together with supporters and featured musician Willy K, who drew the winning number.

*See story on Page 2*

## Garment Oversight Board finally closing Friday

### Uncashed settlement checks to go to a Trust Fund

**By FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Garment Oversight Board is closing this Friday, Oct. 31, and all the money coming from the class lawsuit settlement checks that the garment workers failed to cash will go to a Garment Workers Trust Fund, according to GOB chairman Timothy Bellas.

Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* that Friday

*See GARMENT on Page 4*

# Local

## Getting into the Halloween spirit for charity

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Politicians, zombies, and witches were out in full force at the American Red Cross NMI Chapter's 20th Annual Club 200 fundraiser Saturday night. This year's event, held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, featured a Halloween theme, complete with costume contests. Willy K from Hawaii was the featured musician.

"It went really well," said Red Cross executive director John Hirsh at the end of the

*See GETTING on Page 4*

KRISTI EATON

Featured musician Willy K from Hawaii performs for the jam-packed crowd.

KRISTI EATON

Sharmaine Casquero, dressed in a skintight red dress with protruding feathers, won the women's costume contest.

Assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield, dressed as Flavor Flav, won the men's costume contest.

KRISTI EATON

Pacific Islands Club staff perform a zombie-inspired dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

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# American Samoa authorities hunt longliners

## Taiwanese fishing boats left crew stranded in Pago Pago

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa** (Samoa News)—OTICIDE has issued a bulletin through INTERPOL for its law enforcement partners in the region to keep a watch out for about six longliners, owned by Taiwanese businessmen, that left 45 Indonesian fishermen stranded recently in American Samoa.

OTICIDE executive director Mike Sala said via e-mail from the U.S. that a request for assistance is being transmitted electronically in the form of an alert to all INTERPOL member countries in an effort to locate the fishing vessel reportedly involved in the alleged disappearance of one Indonesian fisherman whose status remains "missing and/or unaccounted for."

Since the matter is still under investigation, Sala declined to comment further.

He did explain that OTICIDE is the host agency for the American Samoa Sub-Bureau of INTERPOL under the U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB) located in Washington D.C.

The American Samoa Sub-Bureau, by virtue of its mandate, is obligated to assist other INTERPOL member countries in conducting investigations involving possible criminal violations and/or complaints of criminal activities affecting citizens of any INTERPOL member countries.

## TWO

*From Page 1*

screen technology—are on the rise, too. And that's got scientists concerned about accelerated global warming.

The gases are methane and nitrogen trifluoride. Both pale in comparison to the global warming effects of carbon dioxide, produced by the burning of coal, oil and other fossil fuels. In the past couple of years, however, these other two gases have been on the rise, according to two new studies. The increase is not accounted for in predictions for future global warming and comes as a nasty surprise to climate watchers.

Methane is by far the bigger worry. It is considered the No. 2 greenhouse gas based on the amount of warming it causes and the amount in the atmosphere. The total effect of methane on global warming is about one-third that of man-made carbon dioxide.

Methane comes from landfills, natural gas, coal mining, animal waste, and decaying plants. But it's the decaying plants that worry scientists most. That's because thousands of years ago billions of tons of methane were created by decaying Arctic plants. It lies frozen in permafrost wetlands and trapped in the ocean floor. As the Arctic warms, the concern is this methane will be freed and worsen warming. Scientists have been trying to figure out how they would know if this process is starting.

It's still early and the data are far from conclusive, but scientists say they are concerned that what they are seeing could be the start of the release of the Arctic methane.

After almost eight years of stability, atmospheric methane levels—measured every 40 minutes by monitors near remote coastal cliffs—suddenly started rising in 2006. The amount of methane in the air has jumped by nearly 28 million tons from June 2006 to October 2007. There is now more than 5.6 billion tons of methane in the air.

"If it's sustained, it's bad news," said MIT atmospheric scientist Ron Prinn, lead author of the methane study, which will be published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters Oct. 31. "This is a heads up. We're seeing smoke. It remains to be seen whether this is the fire we're really worried about.

"Whenever methane increases, you are accelerating climate change," he said.

By contrast, nitrogen trifluoride has been considered such a small problem that it's generally been ignored. The gas is used as a cleaning agent during the manufacture of liquid crystal display television and computer monitors and for thin-film solar panels.

Earlier efforts to determine how much nitrogen trifluoride is in the air dramatically underestimated the amounts, said Ray Weiss, a geochemistry professor with Scripps Institution of Oceanography and lead author on a nitrogen trifluoride paper. It is set to be published in Geophysical Letters in November.

Nitrogen trifluoride levels in the air—measured in parts per trillion—have quadrupled in the last decade and increased 30-fold since 1978, according to Weiss, who is also a co-author of the methane paper.

It contributes only 0.04 percent of the total global warming effect that man-made carbon dioxide does from the burning of fossil fuels.

But nitrogen trifluoride is one of the more potent gases, thousands of times stronger at trapping heat than carbon dioxide. Methane is more than 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide on a per molecule basis. Carbon dioxide remains the most important gas because of its huge levels and rapid growth.

Still, methane and the potential of future increases is a worry, Weiss and others say.

Its recent increase coincides with anecdotal evidence of more methane being released in the shallow parts of the Arctic Ocean. A scientific survey in late summer found methane levels in the east Siberian Sea up to 10,000 times higher than normal, said Orjan Gustafsson, an environmental scientist at Stockholm University who has just returned from the six-week survey.

Prinn's data are consistent with the early results of "whole fields of methane bubbles" that Gustafsson said he found last month.

The highest methane level increases were seen in monitoring stations in Alert, Canada, which with recent anecdotal evidence points to plants in permafrost thawing and decaying.

Stanford University environmental scientist Stephen Schneider cautioned that the recent increase is new and that "it is pretty hard to be very confident of any trend or big story yet on methane."

Methane levels have kept scientists guessing for the past decade. They were on the rise until about 1997, then soared in 1998 and then leveled off until jumping again in 2006.

## DUPLICATED

*From Page 1*

review of it found scores of duplicate names.

Last week, Friends of the Monument, a community group rallying local support for the White House's proposal, released the results of four months worth of work by volunteers, who canvassed the streets of Saipan gathering signatures for the petition.

After compiling the names, the total they unveiled stood at 5,502 signatories. However, an independent review of only one segment of the petition conducted on an Excel spreadsheet by an anonymous critic of the proposal and provided to the *Saipan Tribune*—which published all of the names on the petition in an advertisement—suggests that at least 28 of the signatures are shown on it twice.

After combing through of many of the names published, a *Tribune* reporter had confirmed in a cursory review at press time that seven of the names highlighted by the spreadsheet review are, in fact, duplicates.

On Sunday, Friends of the Monument answered a request for comment on the petition issue with a statement.

"The Friends of the Monument spent four months collecting signatures in support of the designation of a marine monument in the CNMI," the statement says. "More than 60 volunteers spent hundreds of hours collecting more than 5,600 signatures at street fairs, local stores, and other gatherings. It represents one of the largest one-on-one information and outreach efforts ever undertaken in the CNMI and represents literally thousands of individual conversations. We do not believe that this sort of grassroots democracy should be discounted."

The Friends of the Monument petition has previously become the subject of controversy. In a recent letter to White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton, a letter that they later retracted after talks, Gov. Benigno Fitial and local political leaders contended the monument's supporters have appealed to "poorly informed school children," tourists, foreign workers, and CNMI residents who hail from off-island locales to gain signatures for the petition. Consequently, they argued, it does not reflect the sentiments of the CNMI's people.

"[W]e believe the list contains the names of foreign national workers who, pursuant to the recent federalization of our immigration have short-term interests in the CNMI, and tourists who, frankly, should not have a say in the governance of either the [CNMI] or the United States of America," the letter says. "We feel there are many duplicate names and we question the integrity of the petition."

Word of the duplicate signatures on the petition comes after critics of the proposed monument last week also came under criticism for bullying members of the Man'amko Advisory Council to sign a resolution in opposition to it. Opponents of the plan have said previously they have collected signatures for a petition against the monument but have yet to issue their results.

## GETTING

*From Page 2*

night. "The bands were great. A lot of people got into the spirit. The Hyatt did a great job."

The event is an opportunity for the Red Cross to show their gratitude to all donors, he said.

"Whether you put a couple of coins in our boxes at the store or write a big check, you're all donors," Hirsh said.

He estimates 1,200 people were in attendance at the event. Tickets costs $100 each.

Many attendees got into the Halloween spirit by dressing up. "Sarah Palin" was in attendance, as was "Barack and Michelle Obama."

Elizabeth Henke, dressed as Palin, said she planned to attend as the Republican Party's vice presidential nominee since she got a wardrobe makeover. She said she was not upset that she didn't win the costume contest.

"We're going straight to the White House, and that's the big contest," she said.

Sharmaine Casquero, dressed in a skintight red dress with protruding feathers, won the women's contest, while Jeffery Warfield, dressed as Flavor Flav, won the men's costume contest. Russ and Kanae Quinn won the couple's category as Popeye and Olive Oyl.

The other big contest of the evening was the drawing for the $20,000 grand prize. Willy K drew the winning number belonging to Teresa Palacios.

"I can't explain it. I'm overwhelmed," Palacios said after winning.

She said she would use the money to pay bills and then discuss with her husband, McGarrett, and their kids how to spend the rest of the money.

Leslie Rodriquez won the 1st place prize of two round-trip tickets to New York City. Geraldine Cruz won the 2nd place prize of $10,000.

Earlier in the evening, employees from Pacific Islands Club performed a zombie-inspired dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller," while Joeten was recognized for its regular contribution to the Red Cross.

Hirsh said there are already plans for next year's event, which will feature a different theme.

"The wheels do start turning early," he said.

## GARMENT

*From Page 1*

is GOB's closing date therefore it will be the last day that the board will do anything with any of the settlement checks.

He said the proposal, however, is that they're going to continue the financial aspect until Dec. 31, 2008 to allow any of the checks that are still outstanding to be cleared.

Bellas said the uncashed money will then be transferred to a Garment Workers Trust Fund for a year and then after that the money will be given to a charity.

"We've tried extensively by asking the court to extend the term of GOB three times in order to get much of these money into the hands of the garment workers as we can," he said.

The former judge said the GOB can only can go by the addresses of the workers that were given to them.

"We've had a lot of situation where the workers might be here but the addresses they gave us were back in China, or Philippines, Bangladesh," he said.

Bellas said they sent the checks for the addresses that they have so the relatives of the workers sent the checks back to the workers here in the CNMI.

"So they come in and they say 'oh here's my check' and it's more than 60 days. So we've been re-issuing checks," he said.

Bellas said every time GOB's term gets extended, its operation expenses continue.

"We're sort of using the money for operating expenses. And so we want to go ahead and use it for a good purpose of giving it to the workers or giving it to charity," he added.

GOB was set up pursuant to the $20-million settlement agreement in the class action against CNMI's garment industry. It's purpose was to oversee the monitoring program of the garment industry.

Before the remaining settlement money was transferred to GOB last year, a company that was tasked to distribute the funds to some current and former garment workers informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that it successfully mailed out almost 29,800 checks to individuals located in 17 countries.

The company said the total cash distribution represented by the checks is $2.3 million out of an initial net fund of $4 million.

In July 2008, GOB claimed it has sent 11,353 new checks and would be sending 1,031 more checks to some current and former garment workers.

The 12,384 checks are worth $1,599.495, GOB then reported.

On July 21, 2008, the federal court granted GOB's request for final extension of its term (Oct. 31, 2008) in order for the board account the last $1.6 million in checks.

## MILITARY

*From Page 1*

cognizant of economic pressures on the budget. We'll be prepared to react to that if that happens. But right now, the program continues," said JGPO director David Bice.

He added that the programmed expansion in Guam, which involves the transfer of some 8,000 Marines and their dependents from Okinawa, is on track to be completed by 2014.

Bice also reported that the U.S. Department of Defense expects to have its draft master plan for the CNMI's part in the military buildup by December of this year. Citing experience with the Guam master plan, which he said has gone through about five revisions so far, Bice said the CNMI's draft master plan, once released, would be subject to many changes depending on public input and other factors.

Although the focus of the relocation effort is in Guam, the program involves using Tinian and possibly Pagan and other parts of the CNMI's northern islands, as a military training site.

The draft environmental impact study for the military buildup is expected to be out in early spring next year, Bice said.

# LIIDS transferred to Labor

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor will be responsible for the Commonwealth's labor database beginning Nov. 1, 2008, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial ordered recently.

Fitial, in an Oct. 17 executive order, transferred the CNMI's labor and immigration identification and documentation system from the Division of Immigration to the Labor Department. More commonly known as LIIDS section, the agency in charge of keeping track of guest workers in the CNMI will now be called the Employment Data Section.

Under the governor's order, the EDS will also maintain the border management system for as long as the CNMI government is in control of local immigration functions. The border management system is an automated program that generates a record of all entries to and exits from the Commonwealth.

The governor said the transfer is done in the interest of efficient administration. He noted that the Labor Department recently upgraded its automated processing system and completed its interactive website. The new system is tightly integrated with the data collection and processing currently done by LIIDS.

"This is just internal reorganization effort. The governor believes it is more appropriate to put Labor in charge of the database, given its duties and responsibilities with respect to the foreign workers," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

According to the executive order, all of LIIDS' equipment and data files will be transferred to the Employment Data Section. The supervisor of the LIIDS section will remain in charge of the new agency. All LIIDS personnel who can legally transfer to the Labor Department will also remain employed in their current positions.

The executive order also calls for the transfer of the LIIDS' budget allocation to the new section. However, it says the governor reserves the authority to make personnel-related decisions.

The U.S. federal government is required by law to take over the CNMI's immigration system on June 1, 2009.

**JAPANESE AUTUMN FESTIVAL**
Misako Kamata, left, and Luz Sablan sell takayaki and katsudon at the Kinpachi Restaurant booth Saturday at 24th annual Japanese Autumn Festival.
KRISTI EATON

# Company, 2 men sue over coconut tree smashup

A company and two men have filed a lawsuit against a motorist who allegedly caused their vehicle to hit a coconut tree in As Perdido.

Kannat Gardens Inc., Alexander L. Lopez, and Dante C. Roman, sued Joaquin R. Crisostomo for negligence.

The plaintiffs, through counsel O'Connor law firm, asked the Superior Court to order Crisostomo to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

According to the complaint, on July 15, 2008 at 2:25pm, Lopez and Roman were traveling west along As Perdido Road on board a 1999 Nissan Frontier owned by Kannat Gardens.

As the two were about to turn right toward the Recycling Center, a 1992 Mazda B2200 driven by Crisostomo suddenly struck their vehicle at the back.

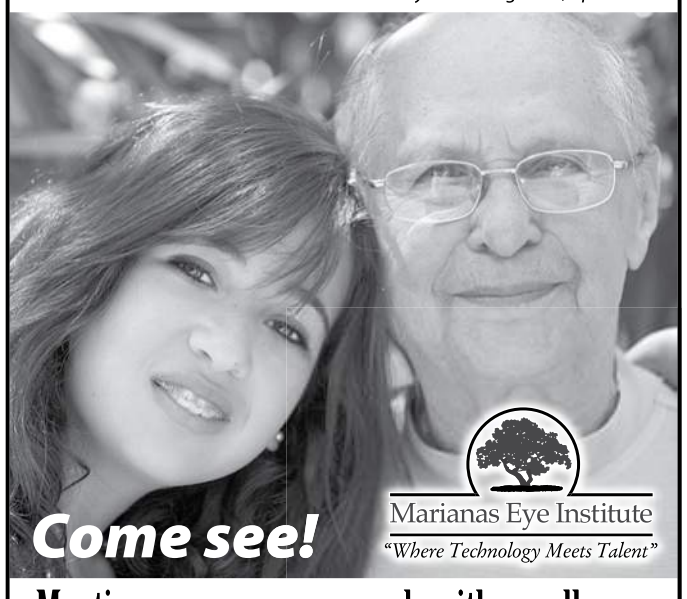
The impact caused the plaintiffs' vehicle to move forward and hit a coconut tree.

The complaint said that the impact resulted to injuries to Lopez and Roman, while the Kannat Garden's vehicle was severely damaged.

An ambulance transported Lopez to the hospital due to his injuries.

The complaint said that the investigation conducted by the Department of Public Safety concluded that Crisostomo was at fault. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008

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IN DECADE-LONG SUIT OVER TINIAN SCHOOL PROJECT

# Wiseman: CDA not entitled to $804,049 in damages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ruled that the Commonwealth Development Authority is not entitled to $804,049 in damages in connection with the lawsuit over the construction of Tinian High School.

Wiseman said he finds no evidence which was presented during trial which supports a finding that CDA, as third party beneficiary, suffered damages as a result of the breach of the Public School System-Guerrero Brothers Inc. agreement.

Wiseman discussed such finding in his order on Friday that granted PSS' motion for judgment as a matter of law.

In 2001, Century Insurance Co. Ltd. (CIC) sued PSS for alleged breach of contract involving the Tinian High School construction project. The insurance company also named as co-defendant GBI, a contractor who was awarded $3.8 million with the project.

CIC alleged that PSS refused to pay the company that had assumed the completion of the school project.

PSS then filed a counter-claim against CIC, CDA, and GBI.

During the first phase of the jury trial in the case in Aug. 2008, GBI was found liable to CIC for $170,960 in damages.

In the second phase of the jury trial also last August, GBI and CDA claimed they suffered damages as a result of the breach of a 2001 settlement agreement between PSS and CIC.

The jury also concluded that CIC did not breach its contract to provide interim payments to GBI and did not unreasonably delay in providing performance and payment bonds to GBI. The jury also found that CDA was entitled $804,049 in damages from PSS as a result of PSS' breach of the GBI-PSS agreement.

PSS then renewed its motion for judgment as a matter of law to overturn the jury's decision to award CDA damages.

PSS, though counsel Karen Klaver, argued that surety law and subrogation control this matter. CIC, through counsel Steven Pixley, maintained that as the bonding company in the Tinian High School Project, subrogation and surety law dictate that their rights are superior to any claims by CDA.

CDA, through counsel Ben Salas, argued that CIC failed to perfect its security interest pursuant to the Uniform Commercial Code and therefore CIC's interest is subordinate to CDA's right as a lien creditor.

CDA was the lien holder and a guarantor of loans made from the Bank of Saipan to GBI.

In his decision issued Friday, Wiseman said a court may grant a renewed motion for judgment as a matter of law if there is no legally sufficient evidentiary basis for the verdict.

In this case, Wiseman said CDA had no direct claim to the remaining funds under the laws of surety and subrogation.

"After numerous extensions and increasing loans, GBI spectacularly failed to complete the Project. At which time, CIC, as the surety, was required to complete the Project. CIC satisfactorily did so and was certainly entitled to payment for the completion," he said.

The judge said PSS reached an agreement, equal to the amount of remaining funds, which satisfied their debt to CIC as the party who finished the construction.

"The Phase 1 Funds were intended for construction of the Project and it is clear that CIC was entitled to those funds," Wiseman said.

Wiseman said CIC's failure to perfect its security interest is inconsequential.

CIC, the judge stressed, had a greater legal and equitable claim to the remaining funds than CDA.

He noted that the only plausible legal conclusion the jury could have reached in awarding CDA $804,049 was finding that CDA, as a third party beneficiary, was harmed by PSS's breach of the PSS-GBI agreement.

Wiseman said PSS breach of contract had no impact on CDA's damages on their ability to recover their losses from GBI.

"While CDA was no doubt harmed (in the form of accrued interest) by GBI's failure to pay their owed monies to the Bank of Saipan, this harm is not a result of the breach of the PSS-GBI agreement," he said.

Consequently, the judge said, CDA cannot now week to recover their losses from PSS.

# DPS sections to relocate

Beginning today, Oct. 27, 2008, the Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section and Criminal Investigation Bureau will be relocating to the building behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Susupe.

The Traffic Section and CIB will only occupy a portion of the building, which formerly housed the Residential Substance Abuse/Minimum Security Complex.

Also on Monday, the Police Academy will be moving to the Kagman Community Center, while the Fire Academy will be relocated to the Kagman Fire Station.

In a statement issued Friday, DPS said the sections are moving to the new sites because the building they currently occupy—the former court house—is in poor condition and unsafe for DPS employees to work in.

"Moreover, the building is without electricity due to a transformer blowing out earlier this week. Electricity will no longer be connected to the building," the DPS statement said. ***(PR)***


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**IFB09-GOV-007**

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 05, 2008 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"PROCUREMENT OF EXPLORATORY DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE CNMI WATER TASK FORCE"**

GOVERNOR BENIGNO R. FITIAL AND LT. GOVERNOR TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ, THROUGH THE CNMI WATER TASK FORCE, ARE SOLICITING SEALED BIDS FROM QUALIFIED FIRMS OR INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF EXPLORATORY DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO CONDUCT EXPLORATORY WELL DRILLING ON SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

THE PROCUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN ON OR AFTER **OCTOBER 22, 2008.**

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. THOMAS S. SALAS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, VIA E-MAIL AT salasthomas@gmail.com NO LATER THAT **2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 03, 2008.**

THE BIDDING PROCEDURES SHALL BE INN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS. PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED. IT MUST BE CLAIMED AT THE TIME OF BID SUBMISSION WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

**/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL**
**GOVERNOR**

**/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**
**DIRECTOR, P&S**



# STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## VICTIM WITNESS SERVICES
## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Victim Witness Services to help crime victims restore their sense of dignity, self-esteem, and coping mechanisms while pursuing criminal charges against the perpetrator(s).

### WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?

If you are a victim of crime, you may be facing a number of problems not listed here. You must realize that each case is different. Only you know how this crime is affecting your life. It is important to let those who care know how you feel. You may also need the support of others. We, at the Victim Witness Services, can assist you with the following:

- Provide information and referral
- Provide emotional support
- Provide court accompaniment
- Refer victims to counseling if necessary
- Restitution advocacy
- Provide transportation for victims, if necessary, to court or appointment related to their case
- Notify victims regarding trial dates, case related information, and case disposition
- Assist victims in their request for parole notification

VIOLENCE
PHYSICAL
SEXUAL
USING COERCION AND THREATS
Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her • threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare • making her drop charges • making her do illegal things.
USING INTIMIDATION
Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures • smashing things • destroying her property • abusing pets • displaying weapons.
USING ECONOMIC ABUSE
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Office of the Attorney General
Criminal Division
Victim Witness Services
Susupe, Civic Center Complex

This ad was made available 100% through the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.

# Pacific lawyers urged to assist in human rights reporting

Pacific countries will now report to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations and other U.N. member states on their human rights records under a new human rights reporting mechanism, a regional gathering of lawyers heard last week in Port Vila.

Attending a weeklong workshop on international human rights law and its relevance for the Pacific organized by the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the lawyers were told that the recently introduced Universal Periodic Report process helped guide countries, through open dialogue and recommendations, in implementing changes to ensure the human rights of their citizens were fully protected.

RRRT/SPC Human Rights Adviser Imrana Jalal said the UPR mechanism, passed by the UN General Assembly in 2006, also provided an opportunity for Pacific Island countries to bring Pacific challenges, achievements and needs in the area of human rights to the attention of the international community.

"The beauty of reporting to human rights committees is that it provides a regime which allows for progress to happen for Pacific Island countries," Jalal said.

Tonga was the first Pacific country to submit their Universal Periodic Report earlier this year. Tuvalu is scheduled to present its report to the council this December and Vanuatu in 2009. Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia are scheduled to report in 2010 and Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Solomon Islands in 2011.

As a guest speaker at the workshop, Justice Vui Clarence Nelson of the Supreme Court of Samoa encouraged the lawyers to be vigilant in their roles as protectors of the rights of citizens.

The workshop, which brought together 35 lawyers from 10 Pacific Island countries, also looked at the issues of climate change, HIV, and domestic violence in relation to human rights and international law. ***(PR)***

**SUBMARINE TOUR** NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

A 2-year-old old Japanese girl enjoys watching the school of fish in waters of Tanapag Harbor with her parents onboard Deepstar Submarine. The co-captain of Saipan's only submarine tour said there has been a decline in the number of clients due to the economic downturn.

# 'Being an American' Essay Competition accepting entries

Local high school students planning to participate in the national *Being an American* Essay Contest are being reminded by the Bill of Rights Institute that all entries must be submitted by Dec. 1, 2008.

Cash prizes totaling nearly $200,000 and a trip to our nation's capital will be awarded to winning students and their teachers for exploring the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. Teachers can submit essays online at www.BeingAnAmerican.org.

Since the September launch of this year's contest, Washington Wizards' All-Star Antawn Jamison has helped to promote the contest and has been invited to speak to winning students during their Washington, D.C. trip; The History Channel has signed on as an official sponsor of the contest; and Country music legend Kenny Rogers has been interviewed for a video documentary to be unveiled at the Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.

"The Bill of Rights Institute encourages students and teachers to participate in the 2008-09 *Being an American* Essay Contest, which offers significant prizes for examining the connection between modern American citizenship and our Founders and their principles," said Bill of Rights Institute President Victoria Hughes.

This school year is the first in which high school students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are eligible to enter the contest. The contest began in 2006-07 in three states and expanded last year to 19 states and the District of Columbia. Over 17,000 students have participated in the contest to date.

To participate, students are asked to share their thoughts on American citizenship by answering the following question: "What civic value do you believe is most essential to being an American?"

The names of the Top 3 prize winners in the nine regions will be announced at a special Washington, D.C. Awards Gala in March of 2009, during which Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas is scheduled to give keynote remarks. The first place winners in each region and their sponsoring teachers will each receive $5,000 cash awards; second place winners $2,500 and third place winners $1,250. Honorable mention prizes of $250 will be awarded to 63 students, seven from each region.

The contest provides teachers with an easy way to incorporate the essay topic into the classroom. The Bill of Rights Institute provides lesson plans and supplemental materials—which meet national academic standards—at no charge for easy integration into related coursework.

Visit the *Being an American* web site at www.BeingAnAmerican.org for complete rules and materials. ***(PR)***

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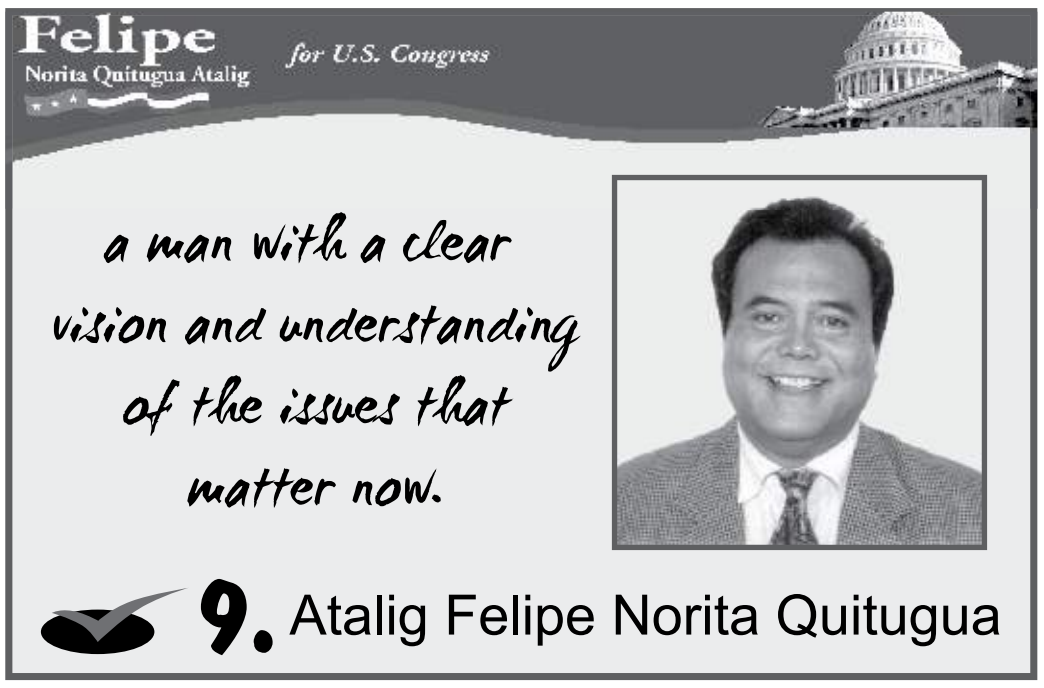
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*The House of Representatives*
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Date: October 16, 2008

Contact: Representative Joseph C. Reyes
Telephone: (670) 664-8836
Facsimile: (670) 664-8838

The House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism would like to solicit comments from the general public on House Bill 16-153 "To require health insurance coverage of the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders in individuals under 21 years of age, and for other purposes".

Copies of the legislation maybe obtained from the following places:

l. Request to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes
2. It may be viewed at www.camachocnmi.com under Legislative Bills, H.B. 16-153.
3. Request for digital copy via email to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com

Members of the general public are encouraged to submit written testimony on or before November 15, 2008. To submit written testimony, please drop-off or fax to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes (664-8838) or may be mailed to P.O. Box 500586 Saipan, MP 96950.You can also submit your digital copies to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com.

For additional information, you may contact the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes.

**/s/ Rep. Joseph C. Reyes**
**Chairman**

*The House of Representatives*
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Date: October 23, 2008

Contact: Representative Joseph C. Reyes
Telephone: (670) 664-8836
Facsimile: (670) 664-8838

This is a final reminder to all CUC customers who have experienced damage to one or more household appliances due to power fluctuations and power outages. Please notify the office of Congressman Joseph C. Reyes in writing (P.O. Box 500586, Saipan), by phone (664-8836) or by fax (664-8838) of the date, time, type of appliance(s), and estimated dollar value of the loss. Deadline for submission is November 15, 2008.

Thank you.

**/s/ Rep. Joseph C. Reyes**
**Chairman**

*Northern Mariana Islands*
**RETIREMENT FUND**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**SALE / ASSIGMENT OF LOANS**
**RFP NO. RF09-054**

OPENING DATE: **OCTOBER 27, 2008** CLOSING DATE: **NOVEMBER 26, 2008**

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is seeking proposals from qualified financial institutions including government agencies interested in purchasing and capable of servicing the Fund's loan portfolios made under the Fund's Member Home Loan Program and other loans made as Economically Targeted Investments.

To receive the RFP packet, fax, e-mail or mail your request to:

**Mark A. Aguon, Administrator**
**Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund**
**P.O. Box 501247 CK, Saipan, MP 96950-1247**
**Fax: 670/664-8080**
**E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com**

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Marriage Encounter weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a World-wide Marriage Encounter Week-end! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on Nov. 14-16, 2008 at the Saipan Grand Hotel. If you are interested in joining the next ME Weekend, contact the Fall 2008 Registration Couple, John & Vicky Mafnas at 285-8454, e-mail vbmafnas@yahoo.com.

All Encountered Couples and Priests are invited to share their gifts, talents and time in the planning and hosting of this powerful Weekend! The next Planning meeting will be held Thur, Oct 30th at 7:00 pm at the residence of Charles & Cathy Cepeda in Fina Sisu. Bring a potluck dish and join in the planning fun! ***(PR)***

### DEQ cleanup at Tank Beach

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the volun-teers on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 8am.

Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding bri-gade volunteers who participat-ed in at least 10 monthly clean-ups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Volunteers removed 1,740 lbs of debris from Coral Ocean Point on Oct. 4. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

### MHS Class of '78 reunion

The MHS Class of 1978 is hav-ing its 30th year Class Reunion at the Susupe Beach Park (potluck-style) on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 11am to 4pm. Classmates are welcome to bring their families. Should you have any questions, contact Viol Guerrero at 285-1268, Ben Sablan at 483-3277, or Liz Balajadia at 898-9535. (PR)

### Live-fire training on Farallon set

The U.S. military will be con-ducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Oct. 30, from 3:30pm to 7:30pm, according to the Emer-gency Management Office.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### October 27, 1999

#### Postpone action on takeover bill

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday urged U.S. lawmakers to hold off action on legislation extending federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas as he expressed disappointment over its approval by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Commit-tee despite CNMI's protests. But he remains optimistic that other members of Congress will weigh the full impact of the proposal to the island's economy. "Hopefully, I'd like to see that they would take it very seriously and try to give us the opportunity to delay implementing the INA," Tenorio told reporters in an interview.

#### Ombusdman may have overstepped authority

Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown may have overstepped her authority when she asked the Department of Labor and Im-migration to reconsider its action against a nonresident who was found working with expired entry permit, according to officials. Brown sent a letter to Assistant Attorney General Robert Goldberg appealing DOLI's decision to file a civil case against Vivian D.J. Maglalang on behalf of the Filipino worker in connection with her unauthorized "training" at the Intermodal Cargo Forwarders. But sources from the administration claimed the parent company of Intermodal, Ambyth Shipping Micronesia, Inc., employs Mark Blackburn as agent, whom they said is "related" to Brown.

### October 27, 2000

#### Students march against violence

Hopwood Junior High School students aired their message loud and clear yesterday when they took to the streets of San Antonio to seek an end to the escalating violence in the community. Twelve-year-old Mary Lou Gariguez, a member of the HJHS marching band, said playing her musical instrument as the hour-long parade made its way through the San Antonio Village was her way of ex-pressing opposition to mounting violence directed at children. "Vi-olence should stop. To all the people, please let's stop child abuse. We should instill discipline in children but first and foremost, let's love the them," said Ms. Gariguez.

#### Visitor arrivals slightly up in 1st half

Re-entry of Korean travelers to the Northern Marianas pushed overall visitor arrival figures in the first half of the year by three percent to 257,800 from last year's average of 250,900 tourists, government records disclosed. A report on economic indicators compiled by the commerce department's Central Statistics Divi-sion also revealed a modest drop in the arrival of Japanese tourists to Saipan during the first semester of the calendar year 2000. The Quarterly Economic Review, which quotes figures submitted by the Marianas Visitors Authority, indicated a 0.5 percent decline in the number of visitors from the CNMI's largest tourism market to 190,700 from 191,750 in 1999.

### October 27, 2002

#### Govt in for tougher times ahead

Gripped with a cash flow shortage primarily weighed down by the huge deficit that was a carry over from the previous year, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente assured Friday that the government continues to devise ways to recover from the pressing financial difficulty. He said the administration intends to remain afloat by keeping with cost-saving measures within the government and looking at other means to raise revenues. Warning of probably tougher times in the next few months, Benavente appealed to other government agen-cies to bear with the sacrifices that have to be made. "We're ask-ing our government offices to make sacrifices, not in years, but in months [only]. And I think we can do that. I really think that we can hold off on expenditures to overcome this," said Benavente.

#### Heinz appeals for approval of HB 13-126

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider appealed to the administra-tion to give House Bill 13-126 a chance, following efforts by the Executive Branch to resolve issues surrounding Public Law 13-1, or the measure defining government positions exempt from civil service. HB 13-126, legislation crafted to address loopholes in PL 13-1, has passed both the House and the Senate without amend-ments. The administration, however, has yet to act on the measure. "As a matter of appeal to the administration, [it would be fitting] to sign it [HB 13-126] into law and see what are its detailed impedi-ments, so that we can correct those. But until it's signed into law and have it applied, and we see what obstacles HB 13-26 gener-ates, we can only argue on the basis of theoretical application of 126," the Speaker said Friday. Gov. Juan N. Babauta this week coordinated a meeting with Legislature members and the Office of Personnel Management in an attempt to resolve the issue on the advance notices that would have terminated at least 354 govern-ment employees.

# Pacific

## New Caledonia records first dengue death

### Total cases reported stands at 1,016

**SUVA, Fiji** (Oceania Flash)—New Caledonia's health services have on Thursday announced the first death related to the current dengue fever epidemic.

The victim was a woman in her fifties, who resided in the country town of La Foa, on the West coast of the main island.

Health services have also pointed out that the latest toll on the number of cases reported stood this week at 1,016.

Most cases concerned the serotype 1 of the hemorrhagic fever, which is transmitted by mosquitoes.

New Caledonia has been gripped by the epidemic for the past four months.

In other parts of the Pacific region, another, less common, serotype of dengue, the type 4, is currently prevailing, particularly in Fiji (close to two thousand cases reported so far, Kiribati, Samoa, American Samoa and Palau.

This has led New Caledonian health authorities, as well as those in French Polynesia, to raise awareness and alert levels with a particular focus on visitors or returning travellers, who could "import" the disease.

One particular worry is that even though local populations have been regularly exposed to the type 1 dengue virus, they are not used to the Type 4 and could therefore be more vulnerable and less resistant.

Another concern is that the return of the warm and humid season in this part of the Pacific could fuel a fresh vigour in the cases of dengue, because of the favourable conditions to the reproduction of vector-bearing Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes and their larvae.

As in other parts of the Pacific, New Caledonian authorities have stepped up awareness campaigns (with a focus on cleaning compounds and removing any object that could potentially contain still waters [a favourite breeding site for mosquitoes]).

The public is also advised to use personal mosquito repellents and mosquito nets to avoid being bitten by the insects.

Public spraying campaigns have also been carried out in past months, especially in the capital Nouméa and its suburbs.

In French Polynesia, health director Dr Henri-Pierre Mallet has also expressed alarm last month, saying that if the Type 4 dengue was to make its way into the French Pacific territory, about 60 percent of the population (about 250,000 I total) could be affected.

Dengue, if left untreated, can prove deadly because of the internal haemorrhage it provokes.

Its earlier symptoms are joint and muscular pains, headaches, nausea, fever, that can all be easily mistaken for a common influenza.


**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS**

# REQUEST FOR DEVELOPER PROPOSALS FOR KOBLERVILLE/CAPITOL HILL HOMESTEAD PROJECT

**The Department of Public Lands is requesting PROPOSALS (RFP) from QUALIFIED FIRMS (Developers) FOR THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING OF LOW COST HOUSING UNITS IN KOBLERVILLE AND CAPITOL HILL HOMESTEAD LOTS. THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**PHASE 1:** 100 QUADRUPLEX UNITS in Koblerville AND 39 QUADRUPLEX UNITS ON Capitol Hill.

**PHASE 2:** 100 QUADRUPLEX UNITS IN KOBLERVILLE CONSISTING OF FIFTY EACH TWO BEDROOMS UNITS AND FIFTY EACH THREE BEDROOM UNITS.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS ON-SITE WATER AND POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, DRAINAGE FACILITIES, ROADWAYS, SIDEWALKS, AND LANDSCAPING.

Upon completion and acceptance, the Department of Public Lands will work a negotiated payment plan with the winning bidder. The Department of Public Lands will market the homes to potential buyers (qualified homesteaders) and will coordinate and assist with financing for the homeowners through private banks. As each home is completed and homeowner loans are closed, the payment of bank proceeds will be authorized to pay for the construction and transfer of ownership of the residential homes and lots to the buyers.

A PREBID CONFERENCE WILL BE CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 5, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. AT DPL'S CONFERENCE ROOM AT ITS MAIN OFFICE IN DANDAN. Questions from parties CONCERNING THE DETAIL OF THE PROJECT will be entertained AT THAT TIME.

**Bid Proposals:**

**BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM ON NOVEMBER 28, 2008**. Bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's bond in a sum equal to five percent (5%) of the base bid, executed by the bidder or principal and by a surety company RECOGNIZED AND CERTIFIED BY THE COMMONWEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER. SUCH BOND SHALL be forfeited to the Owner should the bidder fail to execute a contract within ten (10) days after Notice of Award. All bids must be in writing, sealed and marked ("Koblerville Homestead Development"; NO FACSIMILES WILL BE ACCEPTED). Bids are to be submitted as to both phases and as a lump sum total. Bids must state that they will remain open for thirty (30) days.

Contractors or members of their teams shall not communicate with the Department's Selection Committee, employees of the Department or the Secretary of the Department except as stipulated per the requirements of this notice. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in rejection of the Contractor's submittal. The Department of Public Lands reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to re-advertise for bids when it is in the best interest of the Department of Public Lands.

John S. DelRosario, Jr., Secretary

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

## Compromise on marine monument plan

Despite its tentative nature, recent reports of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and legislative leaders being more open to the idea of a national marine monument in the northernmost islands of the Marianas chain is welcome news, at least in so far as advancing the dialog on the issue is concerned.

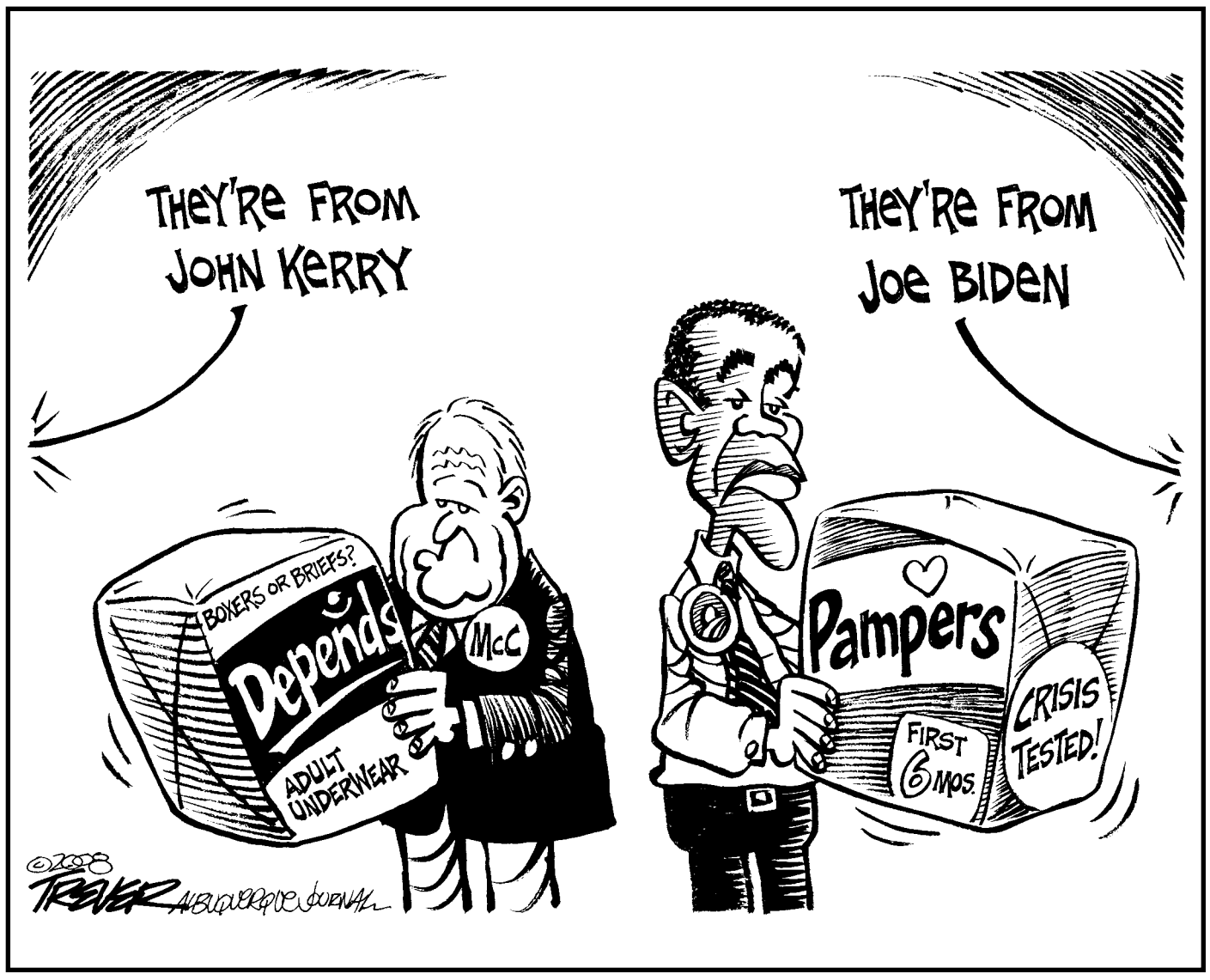
Dialog, after all, is what should have been happening in the first place. The proposal was intended to draw people to the table so everyone can weigh the relevant issues and make decisions based on the merits of the plan. Instead, the issue has created battlegrounds, pitting people against one another and escalating the whole subject into epic proportions on the scale of a Mahabharata battle between the forces of good and evil.

Worse, people have been content to play along as two-dimensional caricatures of themselves, painting each other in the most unflattering of lights and refusing to listen to each other in the belief that they alone are right, or taking umbrage at imagined slights to their inalienable rights. Lost in all the noise, confusion, and animosity was the ability to imagine that there might be a third or a fourth alternative, a common ground where people can come together in the name of conservation and national patrimony.

The suggestion by White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton that further talks about the monument plan may result in an agreement to restore the CNMI's control over "submerged lands" is the cold dash of water needed to snap everyone out of their hysteria and restore some semblance of calm, and the local leadership's statement about being more receptive to the monument proposal is exactly what everyone needs to hear.

A compromise on the matter is being offered and this time, it must be evaluated with a level head. The submerged lands issue is no small potatoes and for the CNMI to regain what has been stripped from it would be a great boon to the Commonwealth, not just economically but also historically. The loss of the submerged lands was never imagined nor contemplated by our Covenant negotiators and the fact that we lost our right to those resources because of the Covenant was a bitter pill to swallow. Regaining the submerged lands now would remedy this unintended consequence.

At the same time, it would allow the Commonwealth to explore all potential economic benefits these underwater resources may have—natural riches that are currently off limits to the CNMI because they do not belong to our exclusive economic zone. If we regain the right to manage these resources, this will have a more direct—and immediate—impact on the local economy since they are closer to the populated islands and not located hundreds of miles away where the only visitors are illegal fishermen from other countries. ***(Saipan Tribune)***




## The road to prosperity—Part I

**By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.*

We are in a deep recession. People are running away, prices are daily escalating, tourism is down, and businesses are closing everyday. The incredibly high CUC power rates are adding greatly to this demise of our economic life. Their rates are killing so many businesses that no one can say how long he will stay in business. Daily we are watching the destruction of a community once proud and once on the road to prosperity. Even frustrated potential investors are standing at a distance holding their decisions whether or not to invest in the CNMI.

Though most of the problems cannot be solved instantly, they can be solved step by step if we begin with examining ourselves. We must stop relying on outsiders to solve the problems for us. Let us stop dreaming that casinos will cure our dilemma. Has the casino on Tinian brought prosperity to the community over the last 10 years? Have federal grants helped the community they were intended for? Cure begins with a strong desire to help ourselves!

When I visited Tinian on Labor Day, I noticed that the one major project under construction, which is totally funded by the U.S. government, had 100 percent guest workers employed. When I visited the new casino sites under construction, I noticed that 100 percent were guest workers also. Please explain to me how all this investment of money will benefit the community when all the labor is done by outsiders and all the money spent on the projects will not remain in the community? Most of this money will be remitted to the guest workers' home country. Meanwhile the Tinian residents stand outside as though looking into a bakery shop smelling but not able to buy.

Has the federal annual subsidy brought prosperity to us? Only the people employed by the local government are able to enjoy it through their payrolls. It is as though they are being subsidized through these grants. I love it when someone in the government tries to justify his junkets by saying: "Most of the trips were paid by federal funds." I really love that excuse. The insult gets bigger when the individual returns and has nothing to share with his fellow co-workers except what he/she bought in the malls.

The first step to overcoming the above dilemma is to begin developing ourselves. We must become concerned with the lack of "human capital" that we should have developed a long time ago, but did not. Consider what the situation would be like if the minimum wage for employees were $8 or $10.00 or no minimum wage. When we need a plumber, or a carpenter, or a painter, or an electrician, or a mason, or a locally qualified beautician, whom would we call? Are there any qualified resident workers to do any of those jobs regardless of the salary rate? We just don't have the skilled trade people.

Being in business on Saipan almost 25 years, I have noticed the lack of motivation in our people to work seriously and a lack of desire to learn a skill or a profession. But I don't blame our people. No one has ever tried to motivate them. The few of us who are fairly successful are so because someone motivated us and guided us. Otherwise we too would line up for food stamps. We need to motivate each other to become educated and skilled.

Over the years the greatest yearning of all of us has been to land a good job in the government. There for the next 20 years, we can remain cuddled and pampered and showered with various benefits. Rarely are we ever motivated to improve our performance. After 20 years, we retire and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Should we desire an extra income, we can go back and double dip "because I am sorely needed and there is no one else that can do my work." Huh?

We have created a socialist class without realizing it. When the government spends about 75 percent of its budget for employees, how can it be a government "of the people and for the people?" It caters to about 5,000 people and acts as a sycophant (good word—look it up).Why? Because it wants their votes every few years to stay in power. Plainly put, our government is distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done. It forgets that its proper function is to govern, not operate industries.

No one cares if any work is done; no one cares what the quality of the work is that is being done—just get on the payroll for the next 20 years and don't make waves. This can easily be seen by the negligence of all of the government's physical plants and transportation vehicles. No one cares or has pride otherwise they would polish and keep their equipment in good condition so that it would last a long time. Instead we squander our resources and then ask for another subsidy.

Just last week I was in Los Angeles and several times passed Public Works men and equipment repairing several roads. Honestly, I stopped my car and walked over to the crews who were wearing smart identify apparel. I introduced myself and remarked on how sharp they looked and remarked on how clean and polished their

***See THE ROAD on Page 13***

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# No social security 'safety net' for many government retirees as the Legislature 'opted out' of the US system in favor of NMIRF

**First of a two-part series**

**By WILLIAM H. STEWART**
Economist

*William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.*

*Editors note:* In the absence of publicly released, in-depth analyses on many issues related to the NMI's retirement fund—the author advances his personal opinions for consideration by interested retirees from the perspective of "one of their own" who is also an economist, a retiree and 35-year resident of the NMI and was, as they say, "present at the beginning."

It certainly would be nice if the Board of Trustees informed the members of the Retirement Fund of the results of the meeting between the Fund's investment consultant, Merrill Lynch, and the Legislature which took place on Oct. 14. I guess they forgot to keep the members informed of the most serious challenge to their financial security since the inception of the locally administered retirement fund.

As things now stand with the Retirement Fund continuing to deteriorate under a two-pronged assault resulting from the country's current economic "meltdown" brought about by rapacious stock manipulators; incompetent federal regulators, and extortionate financiers all resulting in massive market losses and the Fund's diminishment of its investment portfolio. Add to that the central government's continued failure to honor its legal contractual obligation to the Fund's members.

Result—the defined benefit retirement program will be broke in a few years and many members will not even have Social Security benefits to fall back on to provide income support.

The U.S. Social Security system is not without its problems—but you can bet the U.S. Congress is aware of the issue and will address the matter. In 2004 the average monthly Social Security benefit was $1,076 for men and $826 for women. Compare that with "zero" from a bankrupt NMI Retirement Fund.

When the Fund runs out of money to pay pensions, those retired government employees who did not have the option of contributing to the Social Security "safety net" will either be without income—or if they have other sources—will possibly suffer by experiencing much reduced income. This occurring at a time when inflation will likely be rampant and more severe in the future.

Section 606 of the Covenant addressed the application of the U.S. Social Security system to the NMI but the government elected to opt out in favor of its own retirement plan. For those who haven't paid into Social Security—they will not be eligible for monthly payments. One must have participated with payment deductions for 40 quarters to be eligible for reduced pension payments at age 62 or full pension at later ages. Because of the time period involved I suspect this was another reason the Legislature decided to create the NMI's own system.

At the time the decision was made not to participate in the U.S. Social Security System the reasoning (I was told) was primarily because of the duplication of benefits provided by Social Security and the Medicare program and the NMI's Retirement Fund which would have cost the employee and the NMI government as the "contributing" employer substantial amounts of money for participating involvement in each of the two programs. More on this subject tomorrow.

Such an important decision as made by the Legislature would have far reaching and long-term consequences on the financial security of many government employees. In my opinion, the decision should have been put to the employees to decide and not their elected representatives who (it must be said) were subject to the temptation of a possible conflict of interest since they could establish their own rules for the NMI's retirement program—but not the U.S. Social Security System. Dare I suggest that at the time they saw an opportunity to maneuver the NMI's program to benefit the retirement pensions of certain elected officials.

> *"The central government is forcing the Fund to sell off its investments at the worst possible time and at lower value in order to raise money to pay pensions."*

If you are in a position to set up the rules and regulations to control the distribution of money not only for others but also for yourself—well, go figure! As a "regular" government civil service retiree, past or present, what do you think?

It is my understanding that Section 606 of the Covenant did, at the time, provide for that portion of the former Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund to be accredited to the NMI, which if it had occurred could have been designated to be held in trust in a separate NMI Social Security Retirement Fund.

It would therefore seem that subsection (b) presumably anticipated the eventual application of the federal Social Security laws in full to the NMI, including the excise and self-employment taxes which would support system once the Trusteeship Agreement was terminated. So the possibility for participation in the U.S. Social Security System was there at the beginning—but, of course, is no longer an option.

This is not to state that the Social Security System does not apply in the NMI. It certainly does for many in the private sector. Social Security Administration records for the NMI for the year 2006 indicate there were 781 recipients of which 121 were aged; 12 blind and 648 disabled with a total of $394,000 paid monthly. Many thousands more in the private sector are now paying into Social Security—but government civil service employees do not.

Considering the NMI's Retirement Fund is now on a slippery slope toward becoming broke in a few years I can't help but believe that many will view the recent failure of the central government to adhere to its financial and moral obligations to its retired employees and families, widows and widowers as—(1) failure to live up to the terms of the Covenant with the United States with reckless abandonment with regard to maintaining a financially sound, long-term retirement program; (2) inexcusable neglect; (3) abridgement of contractual entitlements by arbitrary administrative and legislative fiat; (4) gross fiduciary irresponsibility and (5) callous disregard for the future health and welfare of the elderly. I'm certain there will be those, past and present, in the government who will not appreciate my sentiments—let them explain their reasoning in a public media.

I was told that the Merrill Lynch consultant together with the Retirement Fund officials had a gloomy outlook as a result of Fund losses in the stock market and the fact that the central government is forcing the Fund to sell off its investments at the worst possible time and at lower value in order to raise money to pay pensions. This is because the government is not meeting its financial obligation to the Fund.

Nor is it realistic to consider issuing pension obligation bonds to raise money which I discussed in my last op-ed article on Friday, Oct. 24. So don't be fooled by false hopes. ***To be continued.***

## Letter to the Editor

# The mess at CUC and the Legislature continue

First off let me make it clear that the views that I am about to express are mine and mine alone. I hope that you will read them and then make up your mind as to what is right and wrong.

First, I will talk about CUC. One again the governor and the director of CUC have shown their lack of understanding as to what a utility company is all about.

It was bad enough that they pulled up a two-year-old RFP and issued a contract on it without letting the rest of the bidders having a chance to re-bid on the project. A lot of things change in two years. But to issue a contract without specifying that the generators that were to be brought in would meet U.S. EPA specifications. That adds to the smell that this whole contract is dirty. But then what is new about that.

To the Legislature. For you to make such a fuss about being called a few names is childish. What you should have done is to figure out why people would think of you that way.

I have one more name to add to the list that you been called. That is GUTLESS. Let me expand on that. If you had any guts the lieutenant governor would be on leave without pay; and not draw his pay while he works on his court case against him. If he is found not guilty he could be reimburse for his salary. Second case, there is a law on the books that says that when an elected official decides to run for another elected position that he must resign from his current position, that includes senators.

On your privatization bill. What was the rush? You say that you were afraid that the governor would do a sole source privatization under his declaration of emergency. Why then did you not pass a resolution forbidding him from doing so? He would have vetoed it and you could have over-ridden his veto. That would have given you time to do your homework and come up with a bill that would have made sense. First off, you could have established the true value of the power plant. Not just pull a price out of thin air. But the whole plan is a mess. I will be very surprised if you find anyone stupid enough to buy the power plant and not the distribution system. It does not made a good sense to produce power and not be able to deliver to the customers. As fouled up as the distribution system is no one can guarantee that they can supply power to the island. We have seen that all ready.

To the governor. You said that you are going to sue the U.S. for the people of the CNMI. It is very strange that everyone that I talked to is opposed to you lawsuit. So just what people are suing you for? What is with your almost paranoid objection to everything federal? You object to the takeover of labor and immigration event though the FEDS gave the CNMI chance after chance to get their act together, all they got was broken promise after broken promises. So the game is over! Who do you have you got to blame now?

Look to the Legislature; that this is a good place to start. The Legislature is supposed to look after the good of the people and to keep the government operating within its means. They have done none of the above. The Retirement Fund is in trouble because the government has not been paying their legal obligation. Who's responsibility is that? The Legislature of course, who else.

As I stated earlier we are all in trouble till we get a legislature that has the guts to make the difficult decisions to do what is right for the people and not what will profit them.

Before you get mad and tell me to get off the island, I ask that you take some time and think over what I have said. You may be surprised and find out that you agree with me.

Back to the governor's lawsuit. In a few days we are going to elect our first representative to the U.S. Congress. Normally, this would be an historic event. Unfortunately, if the governor continues his la suit, it will not make any difference who we send to the U.S. Congress as he will be treated as an outcast from the very start. No one likes people who come asking for money with one hand and threatening a lawsuit with the other hand.

If you want to continue to get help from the U.S., then it must be made clear to the governor that the majority of the people, including the Legislature, oppose the lawsuit.

I strongly urge the Legislature that they send a strong message to the governor to withdraw his suit against the U.S..

Why can't the CNMI utilize Sec. 902 of the Covenant to settle whatever problems we have with the U.S.? What ever happened to negotiating for what you want?

**Fred Prosser**
*Saipan*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼77° |

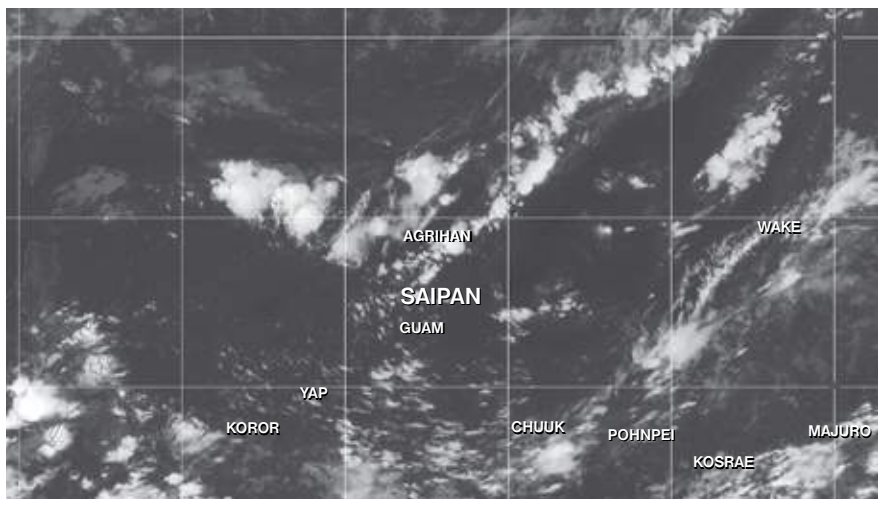
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Showers | ▲84 | ▼76 |
| Palau | Showers | ▲86 | ▼79 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Pohnpei | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼74 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲89 | ▼78 |
| Majuro | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼77 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Rain | ▲66 | ▼58 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲54 | ▼36 |
| Hong Kong | Partly Sunny | ▲86 | ▼75 |
| Honolulu | Cloudy | ▲82 | ▼73 |
| London | Showers | ▲58 | ▼41 |
| Los Angeles | Mostly Sunny | ▲86 | ▼58 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼76 |
| Melbourne | Showers | ▲72 | ▼55 |
| Miami | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼76 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲59 | ▼47 |
| Osaka | Rain | ▲72 | ▼52 |
| Paris | Mostly Cloudy | ▲56 | ▼43 |
| Pusan | Sunny | ▲63 | ▼40 |
| Rome | Rain | ▲69 | ▼55 |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | ▲63 | ▼42 |
| San Francisco | Mostly Sunny | ▲76 | ▼52 |
| Seoul | Mostly Sunny | ▲54 | ▼41 |
| Tokyo | Rain | ▲72 | ▼63 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Sunny | ▲62 | ▼51 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2008**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered northwest of Wake Island at 21N159E. Upper-level divergence south of the circulation is enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 70 miles of a line from 12N151E to 16N160E to 20N163E and north of 21N from 165E to 170e. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 7N and 13N from 130E to 140E and between 5N and 10N from 140E to 150E and between 5N and 10N from 150E to 155E. This area covers Yap and Chuuk. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to EQ136E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are occurring south of Koror between the equator and 3N from 130E to 140E and between 4N and 7N from 130E to 133E. A surface trough extends from Kosrae northward to 11N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the trough and between 1N and 4N from 164E to 166E. Upper-level divergence coupled with trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Majuro between 6N and 9N east of 172E.

## Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12:34AM Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |
| 6:43AM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 12:33PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.7 Feet |
| 6:14PM Today | High Tide: | 1.9 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:11AM | 5:51 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:12AM | 5:50 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:12AM | 5:49 PM |
| Thursday | 6:12AM | 5:49 PM |
| Friday | 6:12AM | 5:49 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 4:27AM | 4:29PM |
| Tuesday | 5:17AM | 5:07PM |
| Wednesday | 6:08AM | 5:47PM |
| Thursday | 7:00AM | 6:30PM |
| Friday | 7:00AM | 6:30PM |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

### DEPARTURES

**Saipan-Rota**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 12:25pm | 1,7 |

**Saipan-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9317 | 4:00am | 4:50am | Daily |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 1:20pm | 1,7 via Rota |
| CO9601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm | Daily |
| CO9603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm | Daily |
| CO9605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Narita**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 099 | 5:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| NW 078 | 8:55am | 2:00pm | Daily |
| NW 075 | 4:55pm | 7:25pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Osaka**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 083 | 4:20pm | 6:55pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Nagoya**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 078 | 8:55am | 11:35am | Daily |

**Saipan-Seoul**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 604 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ 604 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| OZ 606 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 2,4,6,7 |

**Saipan-Busan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 608 | 3:50am | 7:20am | 1,5 |

**Saipan-Shanghai**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM 844 | 3:15am | 5:55am | 2,6 |

**Rota-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9597 | 12:50pm | 1:20pm | 1,7 |

**Guam-Manila**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm | 3,5 via Koror |
| CO 933 | 7:00pm | 8:40pm | Daily |
| PR 111 | 6:00am | 7:45am | 1,2,4,6,7 |

### ARRIVALS

**Rota-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9598 | 3:25am | 4:00am | 5,6 |

**Guam-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9316 | 2:30am | 3:20am | Daily |
| CO9598 | 2:30am | 4:00am | 5,6 via Rota |
| CO9596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| CO9600 | 10:20am | 11:10am | Daily |
| CO9602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | Daily |
| CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**Narita-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 076 | 10:15am | 2:50pm | Daily |
| NW 077 | 6:25pm | 1:30am+1 | Daily |
| NW 100 | 8:45pm | 1:20am+1 | Daily |

**Osaka-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 084 | 10:30am | 3:05pm | Daily |

**Nagoya-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 077 | 9:00pm | 1:30am+1 | Daily |

**Seoul-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ 603 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ 603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1,2,3,4,5,6 |

**Busan-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 607 | 9:30pm | 2:50am+1 | 4,7 |

**Shanghai-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM 843 | 7:50pm | 2:15am+1 | 1,5 |

**Guam-Rota**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9598 | 2:30am | 3:00am | 5,6 |

**Manila-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 892 | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 | 3,5 via Koror |
| CO 934 | 10:55pm | 4:30am+1 | Daily |
| PR 110 | 10:20pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,3,5,6,7 |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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## Letters to the Editor

# Paper or plastic?

How many of you remember that friendly greeting at the check-out? Probably not many, since paper bags generally went the way of the Model T Ford many years ago. Those non-biodegradable, landscape-smothering, but ever so handy "ultra-thin" poly bags have taken over—literally. And now, Rep. Rosemond Santos has decided the island has had enough and has introduced House Bill No. 16-166: "The Plastic Bag Reduction Act of 2008." The act creates an outright ban on the issuance of all plastic "check-out bags" from all "stores" in the NMI six months after enactment; supposedly to protect the environment. But will it have its intended purpose?

If you haven't already read the act, before commenting about this letter, go to Rep. Joe Camacho's website and read it.

Is such an outright ban really necessary? Is there such a ban in a place anywhere? The answer to both is no. Such bans are arbitrary and, in a democratic society, tend to render a public reaction that somehow our government has now stepped into the realm of autocracy and all over our rights (and privileges) of freedom of choice; in this case, our freedom to chose to affect our environment by the use of an admittedly ubiquitous agent—those pesky little bags. So what better choices might there be besides making criminals out of every business in the NMI and possibly even you and I?

**First, some facts:**

The ultra-thin plastic "check-out" bags used to carry your shopping home comprises less than TWO percent of the plastic you bring home. The other 98 percent consists of the packaging used around all the shopping you bring home and, in many cases, the products themselves. These include food and beverage containers and product packaging—many times multi-layered packaging and let's not forget all that Styrofoam. It also includes the ultra-thins you use at the produce counter to keep your lettuce, fruits and onions, for instance, from rolling all over the shopping basket, each other, the check-out counter, the car and possibly even the floor! (Are these bags included in the new act? No, only "check-out" bags.)

Those poly bags are usually re-used in the home for garbage containment, pet droppings and other household chores and waste, thus negating the need to purchase separate disposal "holders" for household "stuff"; "holders" that are usually made of plastic themselves (such as yard bags or kitchen garbage bags) and create an added expense to the homeowner. If the "check-out" bags you now bring home were no longer available, you'd need to purchase something to hold all that household trash—thus the effect on our landfill by this substitution would be NADA. The plastic would still be there—just a different bag.

Generally, plastic bags are non-biodegradable and persist in the environment for a long time, but not necessarily in their original form. These plastics will become brittle and break into tiny pieces under normal sunlight—but this is even worse as these tiny pieces tend to get ingested by all sorts of things, including US.

**Second, some pros and cons of using "green" bags (well, mostly cons):**

So-called "green" bags don't litter the landscape because they are re-used by their owner for many shopping trips—or do they? Unless you purchase an extremely durable, and expensive bag, it will wear out after several uses and need to be discarded—but where? Imagine having to cope with several thousand discarded "green" bags after a few months.

You must remember to bring your "green" bags with you every time you go shopping. Leave it in the car and it will collect dust and also deteriorate from the heat, leading to an unhealthy bag for your contents. If you forget them at home, you will need to purchase a new one for all those items you just lugged to the checkout. Stores don't give them away; they're just too expensive, usually anywhere from 50 cents to more than a buck each. It takes time for someone to get used to remembering that bag whenever you go shopping.

"Green" bags are harder for store clerks, or you, to pack with purchases. Studies in the U.S. and Australia have indicated that it can take anywhere from 20 percent to 100 percent longer to pack than a typical plastic bag. Australia has calculated that this could cost Australian businesses nearly $41 million in 2007 in lost efficiency and time.

"Green" bags, especially the heavy duty cotton ones, are unhealthy for you. Many food products such as meats and chicken (frozen or fresh) tend to "leak" juices through the packaging (plastic, again) thus soaking into the "green" bag. The same with a broken egg for instance. These food residues will easily become a reservoir for bacteria and other contaminates that can then easily be cross handled to the next usage of the bags contents—and then to you, possibly making you very ill. So, you must remember to keep your "green" bags clean at all times, thus costing you extra for that cleaning.

What about a return to "paper" bags, especially the "made-from-recycled-products" bags? These are somewhat OK, and can be re-used a few times before they tear apart—unless you get it wet, either in the rain or from food leakage, then it's instant goodbye whether it's still full of shopping or not! And did you know that these bags cost the manufacturer (and the user) 500 percent MORE (than plastic) to make? And they use up to 10 times more natural resources to make? That's why you don't see stores asking you "paper or plastic?" anymore. If you want paper, you'll have to BUY it! At least paper degrades easily to a non-harmful state.

H.B. 16-166, as written, ALLOWS for the use of "durable plastic bags at least 2.25 mils thick." These bags are nothing more than the same plastic shopping bags with handles that you get when shopping at a high-end "fancy" store (where most of us can't afford to go). They do deteriorate rapidly, good for not much more than five or so uses before you must discard it—without even being able to use it for household trash. If you leave them in your car, they'll be useless in a few days. I bring this up for two reasons: first, these bags are even more difficult to handle in the environment and persist many times longer than the ultra-thins, and, second, most of the businesses in the NMI get their bags from China or Korea and shop for the cheapest ones available. These 2.25 mil bags ARE the "cheapest ones available" (of the required strength), so do you think the stores in the NMI will opt for the expensive cloth ones that only a few people will buy if given a choice, or the cheaper ones? Thus our environment will be even worse off than before. No matter which bag the store opts for, YOU will still have to buy it; stores just can't afford to absorb the additional cost. This seems to be a major contradiction in a new law that is supposed to protect the environment from the very same bags.

So, how do we solve this dilemma reasonably? There are several ways, and all of them require that stores and the public be pushed GENTLY and GRADUALLY toward lessening the use of plastic while NONE of them create outright bans that just don't work.

For instance, Ireland has seen a reduction in plastic bag use from 300 per person per year to only 21 per person per year by imposing a 15 percent TAX on the bags themselves.

Taxes, as such, should be levied on the end user, not the business, thus gently persuading the public that it is better to invest in "green" technology than to pay for another piece of plastic—gradually. If the shopper opts to use a store-furnished plastic bag, the store would then be required to add on a "tax" to the customer's bill—a tax that increases every few months. Believe me, an enterprising public WILL find better substitutes for those taxed plastic bags—on their own.

The taxes collected could be used directly for the installation and maintenance of "plastic bag collection points" around the island. Couple this with strict regulations making disposal of the ultra-thins a littering violation (it actually already is) along with proper enforcement and you will thus emplace tools to move the public in the right direction. Small fines collected from "littering tickets" can also go to the collection centers. Thereby, the "users" are the ones paying for the clean-up, not the "greener" crowd.

The government could also consider using a portion of the taxes collected to "subsidize" the purchase of "green" bags or as a "reward" for those who consistently use "green" bags—just remember to keep your "green" bag CLEAN! As the public moves toward more "green" bag usage, taxes (and littering) will produce less and less income, but the income won't be needed for collection centers if there are no more plastics to be collected.

The point of all this is that, no matter what action you take, there are consequences and downsides – we just have to pick the path that has the least downside and the greatest benefit to the public without making life insufferable—or criminals out of otherwise good people. I urge Rep. Santos to withdraw this bill, go back to the drawing board, do some basic research first, and then write a bill that will have the proper effect and results. It IS worth the effort for this noble cause; the one Rep. Santos presented, however, shows little or no effort, a complete disregard for the consequences and simply takes "the easy way out".

In summary, one un-known blogger has stated: "Fashionable 'green' bags are nothing more than a 'lite' remedy for the conscience of those who may not do much else for the planet than carry a trendy bag full of groceries out to the waiting SUV, engine running, empty, but with the air-con on to keep it nice and cool."

Besides, at this point in time, doesn't the House have more important things to do?

**Dr. Thomas D. Arkle, Jr.,**
*San Jose, Tinian*

# Abuse of the man'amkos

Mr. Macaranas,

We had requested an investigation into the activities of Mrs. Rosa Mondala nearly two months ago and to date we had not heard any update on the matter. Instead we had to read it from the media that such issues were never looked into. Mr. Macaranas, you being the director of the Man'amko Aging Center is subjecting our man'amkos to such abuses taking place right next door to you and you have not done anything to correct or rectify this serious matter. Mrs. Mondala's unprofessional, unethical, barbaric, and tyrannical disrespectful attitude will not be tolerated and the two of you should be investigated immediately on the matter of forcing people especially the man'amkos regardless of race, color, ethnicity to do something they do not want, then criticize, insult, and embarrass them in front of other man'amkos present when they refused to sign a resolution from Mrs. Mandala. When we met, you had made a commitment to investigate the abusive nature and approach of Mrs. Mandala toward the man'amkos including employees of the Aging Center, which you personally guaranteed and assured TAOTAO TANO that you would prioritize for you also did receive numerous complaints concerning Mrs. Mondala. To date the problem had escalated!

It's bad enough that when we first visited your office to discuss such reports we encountered numerous sign-up documents, mission statements and pamphlets pertaining to your so called corrupted indigenous NMD organization being promoted within and under the roof of Man'amko Center placed. This type of political promotions had no business on the Aging Center's counter which we find to have no relevance or reasons that those types of promotions be placed on the AG's counter.

Mr. Macaranas, may we suggest and I hope you take it into consideration for the sake of the man'amkos. If you cannot find it your heart to discipline or remove an employee who has had numerous complaints reported against her for unprofessional behavior we ask that you tender your resignation and allow someone else who would do so for this problematic issues must end immediately and please have respect for our elders' concerns or complaints.

We look forward to your prompt action on this serious matter.

**Gregorio Cruz Jr.**
*Taotao Tano president*

## THE ROAD

*From Page 10*

road equipment looked. My only regret is that I didn't have my camera. Why can they be so sharp and we so shabby? No! It is not lack of money. It is lack of pride in our work and in ourselves!

This comment above is not meant to criticize our Public Works only. If the truth were told many of our other government departments have the same attitude. Please understand these remarks are generalizations. There are some very dedicated individuals working in the government. Unfortunately they are in the minority. To those who are truly dedicated, I salute you! To those of you who are freeloading, I beg you to move on and get a life.

And of course the CUC farce—careless neglect for the past 25 years! The blame for this serious problem which is slowly killing all economic life goes to all the previous governors and all the previous CUC boards and all the previous executive directors. All of you turned a blind eye and a deaf ear over the years to one of our most important needs. **All of you failed us!** How could you not know that the CUC needed care? How could you be so uninterested? **You all should apologize for your lack of actions and for bringing us to this road of destruction**.

Plainly put, the government is distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done. It forgets that its proper function is to govern, not to operate industries.

Forgive me for preaching the same thing again and again. But if we don't start solving our problems by ourselves immediately, outsiders will not come to our rescue. We must stop relying upon "investors" and start investing in ourselves. But how do we do that?

Next week I will outline several programs and activities we can do that will begin to nourish and restore us onto the road to prosperity again. In closing, please begin to examine ourselves. Begin to have pride in our abilities again. We can and must succeed! The late Earl Nightingale defined "**success"** as "**the progressive realization of a worthy goal."** Let's set the goals and move progressively towards them. Let's get back on the road to prosperity. See you next week.

# Business

# Companies start competing for bailout money

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The bailout is now the hottest lobbying game in town.

Insurers, automakers and American subsidiaries of foreign banks all want the Treasury Department to cut them a piece of the largest government rescue in U.S. history.

The betting is that many with their hands out will be successful, especially with financial markets in a stomach-churning dive and predictions the economy is about to tumble into a deep recession.

These groups argue that the credit squeeze is so severe and the risks to the economy so dire that their industries need financial support as well.

The Treasury is considering requests from a variety of industries, but has not decided whether to expand the program, officials said Saturday.

Lobbying efforts are intensifying.

The Financial Services Roundtable wrote Treasury officials on Friday requesting that the initiative to buy $250 billion in bank stock grow to cover insurers, auto companies, securities dealers and U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies, including banks. The Treasury's plan is intended to bolster banks' tattered balance sheets and get them to resume making loans.

As the Treasury now interprets it, these additional groups would not participate in the bank stock program. They could receive help from a separate part of the $700 billion rescue that will buy bad assets from financial institutions.

Steve Bartlett, the president of the Roundtable, urged the Treasury to broaden the definition of those eligible for the stock purchase program.

"The institutions that are excluded play a vital role in the U.S. economy by providing liquidity to the market," Bartlett wrote Neel Kashkari, the Treasury Department official running the bailout program.

Referring to U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies, Bartlett said, "This is a global crisis and to not recognize the U.S. firms controlled by foreign banks or companies would create further impediment to the market's recovery."

A financial industry official said Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson met over the past week with various groups, including hedge fund managers, that were petitioning for assistance. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the Treasury has not made a decision.

This official said the discussions with insurance industry executives were being held in advance of what are expected to be disappointing earnings reports by some insurance companies in the coming week.

The official said the insurance industry would like to get government purchases of their stock on a mandatory basis, duplicating the agreement Paulson struck two weeks ago with nine major banks.

Paulson pressured the big banks to go along with the program as a way of removing the stigma that might be attached to the payments if only a few major banks had received them.

## Uses for $700B bailout money ever shifting

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—First, the $700 billion rescue for the economy was about buying devalued mortgage-backed securities from tottering banks to unclog frozen credit markets.

Then it was about using $250 billion of it to buy stakes in banks. The idea was that banks would use the money to start making loans again.

But reports surfaced that bankers might instead use the money to buy other banks, pay dividends, give employees a raise and executives a bonus, or just sit on it. Insurance companies now want a piece; maybe automakers, too, even though Congress has approved $25 billion in low-interest loans for them.

Three weeks after becoming law, and with the first dollar of the $700 billion yet to go out, officials are just beginning to talk about helping a few strapped homeowners keep the foreclosure wolf from the door.

As the crisis worsens, the government's reaction keeps changing. Lawmakers in both parties are starting to gripe that the bailout is turning out to be far different from what the Bush administration sold to Congress.

In buying equity stakes in banks, the Treasury has "deviated significantly from its original course," says Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby, the top Republican on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. "We need to examine closely the reason for this change," said Shelby, who opposed the bailout.

The centerpiece of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act is the "troubled asset relief program," or TARP for short. Critics note that tarps are used to cover things up.

**ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)**
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the RCGC's regular monthly meeting will be held as follows:

Date : **Tuesday, October 28, 2008**
Time : **3:00 P.M.**
Location : **Tatachog Public Library Annex Building**

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order**
**II. Roll Call**
**III. Adoption of Minutes**
**IV. Chairman's Report**
**V. Old Business**
1. Procurement
**VI. New Business**
1. Adoption of draft Rules and Regulations and Casino Application
2. Adoption of Personnel Regulation
**VII. Miscellaneous**
**VIII. Adjournment**

At anytime during meeting, the commission may move to executive session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao
Chariman

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# Nation

## Obama and McCain try a little Western swing

AMERICA VOTES

**RENO, Nev.** (AP) — Scrambling to win the West, Democrat Barack Obama mocked John McCain on Saturday for aggressively trying to distance himself from President Bush. McCain touted his Western ties and warned that Obama is a tax-and-spend threat to the nation.

The financially flush Obama campaign also unveiled a two-minute TV ad that asks, "Will our country be better off four years from now?" The length of the ad, which will air in key states, highlights Obama's fund-raising superiority - most campaign commercials run 30 seconds or a minute.

Obama continued to ridicule McCain for distancing himself from the president.

"John McCain attacking George Bush for his out-of-hand economic policy is like Dick Cheney attacking George Bush for his go-it-alone foreign policy," Obama said. Later in the day, Obama put McCain's criticism of Bush this way: "It's like Robin getting mad at Batman."

Ten days before the election, both candidates were targeting the same trio of states - Nevada, Colorado and New Mexico. Any of them could help shape who wins the presidency.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., arrives at a rally in Las Vegas, Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008.

The flurry of appearances by Obama and McCain likely represent the last time in a long, testy campaign that the toss-up territory of the West will get this much attention. Electoral prizes like Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida, will soon take the spotlight.

Obama said it was too late for McCain to portray himself as independent from Bush after standing with him for years. McCain has a mixed record of supporting and bucking Bush.

Real change, Obama said, is "not somebody who's trying to break with his president over the last 10 days after having supporting him for the last eight years."

## Palin pipeline terms curbed bids

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** (AP)—Gov. Sarah Palin's signature accomplishment—a contract to build a 1,715-mile pipeline to bring natural gas from Alaska to the Lower 48—emerged from a flawed bidding process that narrowed the field to a company with ties to her administration, an Associated Press investigation shows.

Beginning at the Republican National Convention in August, the McCain-Palin ticket has touted the pipeline as an example of how it would help America achieve energy independence.

"We're building a nearly $40 billion natural gas pipeline, which is North America's largest and most expensive infrastructure project ever, to flow those sources of energy into hungry markets," Palin said during the Oct. 2 vice presidential debate.

Despite Palin's boast of a smart and fair bidding process, the AP found that her team crafted terms that favored only a few independent pipeline companies and ultimately benefited the winner, TransCanada Corp.

And contrary to the ballyhoo, there's no guarantee the pipeline will ever be built; at a minimum, any project is years away, as TransCanada must first overcome major financial and regulatory hurdles.

In interviews and a review of records, the AP found:

■ Instead of creating a process that would attract many potential builders, Palin slanted the terms away from an important group - the global energy giants that own the rights to the gas.

■ Despite promises and legal guidance not to talk directly with potential bidders, Palin had meetings or phone calls with nearly every major candidate, including TransCanada.

■ The leader of Palin's pipeline team had been a partner at a lobbying firm where she worked on behalf of a TransCanada subsidiary. Also, that woman's former business partner at the lobbying firm was TransCanada's lead private lobbyist on the pipeline deal, interacting with legislators in the weeks before the vote to grant TransCanada the contract. Plus, a former TransCanada executive served as an outside consultant to Palin's pipeline team.

■ Under a different set of rules four years earlier, TransCanada had offered to build the pipeline without a state subsidy; under Palin, the company could receive a maximum $500 million.

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**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio,
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

## NOTICE OF CLOSURE LABOR CASES

**First notice, October 27, 2008**
**Second notice, November 3, 2008**

Notice is hereby given by the Department of Labor that all labor cases filed in the years 2007 and prior have been closed with the exception of the cases listed below. If you have a case from the years 2007 and prior (beginning with the numbers 07, 06, 05, 04, 03, 02, 01, 00, 99, 98, or 97) that you believe remains open, please bring the complaint document to Jeff Camacho, Supervisor, Enforcement Division, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Sq. Building, San Antonio, Saipan on or before November 14, 2007.

**This is a final notice.**

| **Cases currently scheduled in the hearing office** |
|---|
| LC# 07-022 |
| LC# 07-156 |
| LC# 07-174 |
| LC# 07-183 |
| LC# 07-213 |
| LC# 07-239 |
| LC# 07-282 |
| LC# 07-338 |
| LC# 07-342 |
| LC# 07-383 |
| **Cases heard and awaiting orders** |
| LC# 07-208 |
| LC# 07-333 |
| LC# 07-335 |

NATION

# At service, activists decry dragging death in Texas

**PARIS, Texas** (AP)—Members of the Nation of Islam, the New Black Panthers and the NAACP on Saturday promised protests to bring more attention to the killing of an east Texas man whose death recalls, for some, a notorious decade-old hate crime.

Speaker after speaker at a memorial service said they disagreed with the district attorney's stance that Brandon McClelland's death was not racially motivated.

"If this is not a hate crime, then there is no such thing as a hate crime," said Krystal Muhammad of the New Black Panthers. "Even though our brother was viciously slain, we will not let him die in vain."

Two white men, accused of running McClelland down and dragging his body about 70 feet beneath their pickup, remain jailed on murder charges. They face up to life in prison if convicted.

Authorities have cast doubt on theories that the attack was a hate crime but said they will take another look when autopsy results become available this week. A determination of racial bias in a crime can increase penalties, but not for the murder charges these defendants face.

Still, a finding of racial bias in McClelland's killing could make a powerful statement. And Deric Muhammad of the Nation of Islam called McClelland's death an "exact copycat" of the 1998 James Byrd case.

Byrd, a black man in Jasper, about 200 miles south of Paris, was chained by the ankles to the back of a pickup by three white supremacists and dragged for three miles. Two of the killers are on death row; the third is serving a life sentence.

McClelland died after going with two white friends on a late-night beer run across the state line to Oklahoma. On the way back, authorities said, McClelland argued with the two suspects - Shannon Keith Finley and Charles Ryan Crostley, both 27. He left the pickup to walk home.

AP

Jacquline McClelland poses with a photo of her son Brandon McClelland, Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, in Paris, Texas.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Sharpton calls for inquiry in alleged NYPD assault

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Saying that police brutality is not an issue of color, the Rev. Al Sharpton on Saturday joined the cause of a white man who claims that a group of officers sodomized him with a walkie-talkie. Sharpton called for a thorough, independent investigation of Michael Mineo's allegation that five officers tackled him in a subway station, then violated him with a radio antenna after his baggy pants either fell down or were pulled off. Mineo, 24, was hospitalized for four days after the Oct. 15 incident. He was back in the hospital this weekend being treated for what his lawyers said was continued bleeding, problems urinating and severe pain. "Many of the critics say I only fight for black causes," Sharpton said at his Harlem headquarters. He dismissed that perception as misinformed, and said it didn't matter to him that Mineo was white and the group of accused officers was racially mixed.

### Ark. anchorwoman dies in hospital after beating

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** (AP)—An Arkansas television anchorwoman died Saturday, several days after she didn't answer her wake-up call and was found beaten in her home, hospital officials said. Anne Pressly, 26, died at St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Margaret Preston said. In a statement released by the hospital, Pressly's parents, Guy and Patti Cannady, asked for privacy as they grieved. "It was our hope, as was yours, that Anne would overcome the injuries inflicted upon her in the brutal attack at her home," the statement read. "We were with her in her last moments, and although our hearts are broken, we are at the same time comforted by our faith knowing that Anne is now with our heavenly father." Pressly was beaten around the head, face and neck. She had been unable to communicate with her family or police while being kept sedated in the intensive care unit.

### Colo. couple get marijuana with order of tacos

**LAKEWOOD,Colo.**(AP)—A Colorado couple found an unusual topping on their order of tacos: a small bag of marijuana. They discovered the drugs with their order from a Del Taco restaurant and called police, said Lakewood police spokesman Steve Davis. Twenty-six-year-old Dennis Klermund, who police say waited on the husband when he picked up food Oct. 16, faces charges of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Klermund initially denied any knowledge but admitted the bag was meant for a friend after a search dog found more marijuana in a locker, police said. Klermund no longer works at the restaurant, said manager Ulises Montero. A message left for Klermund was not returned.

# Asia

# Pakistani troops capture al-Qaida militant stronghold

**LOI SAM, Pakistan** (AP)—A two-month offensive by Pakistani forces has driven militants from a stronghold through which Taliban and al-Qaida fighters had poured into neighboring Afghanistan to attack U.S. troops, the army said Saturday.

But operation claimed the lives of at least 95 civilians—whose deaths are a critical issue here that observers warn can only increases sympathy for the militants.

The military said its forces captured Loi Sam in the Bajur tribal region Friday after a long and bloody struggle. The town sits on a vital intersection linking the border to three neighboring Pakistan regions.

"Now we have complete control in this area from where miscreants used to go to Afghanistan, Mohmand, Dir and Swat," army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas told reporters flown in to Bajur by military helicopter. "Miscreants have been expelled or killed."

Bajur is part of Pakistan's tribal belt that has become the stronghold of Taliban and al-Qaida fighters waging an intensifying insurgency on both sides of the border.

The army offensive in Bajur was launched in early August, after government officials declared it a "mega-sanctuary" for militants who had set up a virtual mini-state, complete with Taliban-style courts.

U.S. officials worried about record fatalities among their forces in Afghanistan have praised the operation and said it was helping reduce violence on the Afghan side. But the Americans have not halted missile strikes on suspected militants hide-outs in other parts of Pakistan's wild border region, despite Islamabad's protests that the attacks violate its sovereignty.

The army says it faced stiff resistance near Loi Sam from Taliban militants reinforced by foreign fighters, including some from Afghanistan.

# Chinese eggs found tainted with excessive melamine

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Excessive levels of the industrial chemical melamine in Chinese eggs might be traced to feed given to chickens, the Hong Kong government said late Saturday.

The government said in a statement it found 4.7 parts per million of melamine in the eggs produced by a division of China's Dalian Hanwei Enterprise Group based in the northeastern port city Dalian. The legal limit of melamine in Hong Kong is 2.5 ppm.

Hong Kong Secretary for Food and Health York Chow said the melamine may have come from feed given to the chickens that laid the eggs.

"The preliminary opinion experts have given us is that there is a problem with the feed," Chow told reporters.

The new results have prompted officials to expand food testing to meat imports from China, Chow told reporters Sunday.

In an earlier egg-related food safety scare, the banned cancer-causing industrial dye, Sudan Red, was used to color egg yolks.

China is currently caught in a food safety scandal over dairy products tainted with melamine. More than 3,600 children remain sick in China from contaminated milk, with three in serious condition, the Ministry of Health said last week. The deaths of four infants have been blamed on dairy products contaminated with melamine.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Afghan police: 2 foreigners shot to death in Kabul

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—A security guard working for the international shipping company DHL opened fire Saturday, killing the company's country director and his deputy before turning the gun on himself, officials said. The shooting took place in front of the DHL office in downtown Kabul. One Briton and one South African were killed in the attack, British and South African authorities said. The preliminary investigation found one of the Afghan security guards protecting the DHL compound opened fire on the car carrying the two foreigners when it pulled into the company headquarters, said Mirza Mohammad Yarmal, an Interior Ministry official. The guard then put the Kalishnikov rifle to his own head and killed himself, Yarmal said. Blood was on the vehicle's windshield and pooled on the ground in front of DHL headquarters.

### Dalai Lama says he has given up on China talks

**DHARMSALA, India** (AP)—The Dalai Lama said Saturday he has given up on efforts to convince Beijing to allow greater autonomy for Tibet under Chinese rule. The Tibetan spiritual leader said he would now ask the Tibetan people to decide how to take the dialogue forward. China has repeatedly accused the Dalai Lama of leading a campaign to split Tibet from the rest of the country. The Dalai Lama has denied the allegations, saying he is only seeking greater autonomy for the Himalayan region to protect its unique Buddhist culture—a policy he calls the "middle way." "I have been sincerely pursuing the middle way approach in dealing with China for a long time now but there hasn't been any positive response from the Chinese side," he said in Tibetan at a public function Saturday in Dharmsala, the north Indian town that is home to Tibet's government-in-exile. "As far as I'm concerned I have given up," he said in an unusually blunt statement. "The issue of Tibet is not the issue of the Dalai Lama alone. It is the issue of 6 million Tibetans. I have asked the Tibetan government-in-exile, as a true democracy in exile, to decide in consultation with the Tibetan people the future course of action," the Dalai Lama said.

### Former key ally of RP leader backs her impeachment

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A former key ally of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo endorsed an impeachment complaint against her on Saturday. Former House Speaker Jose de Venecia said not endorsing the complaint "would in itself constitute a crime against the Filipino people." "As a matter of personal conscience, of public duty to our people, and in consideration of the highest national interest, I am endorsing this impeachment complaint without reservation," he said in a statement. De Venecia told reporters he was willing to testify against Arroyo in the complaint filed last week by the president's opponents, including his son, Jose de Venecia III. It was unclear what effect de Venecia's support would have on the complaint, which accuses Arroyo of corruption, abuse of power, violating the constitution and perpetrating human rights abuses. It has not yet been sent to the full house for a vote. Arroyo political adviser Gabriel Claudio downplayed de Venecia's support for the impeachment bid. "The administration is confident of being able to defend itself and the president from any issue raised," Claudio said.

# World

## Iraq's main Sunni party suspends contacts with US

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Iraq's largest Sunni party said Saturday that it has suspended official contacts with American military personnel and civilians after the killing of a man near Fallujah.

The Iraqi Islamic Party accused the raid of having a "hidden political motive" in an indication of rising tensions in Anbar province ahead of provincial elections, due to be held by the end of January.

The U.S. military said U.S.-backed Iraqi soldiers arrested a wanted insurgent leader suspected of training roadside bomb cells in an operation Friday that killed an armed man who opened fire on the troops.

The IIP alleged that a senior member of the party was killed in his bed and five others were arrested during the raid in the Halabsa area on the outskirts of the former insurgent stronghold.

It accused the troops of targeting party members after its success in forging tribal alliances with other political blocs.

"The hidden political motive behind this incident is clear," the party said in a statement posted on its Web site.

The party said it "has decided to suspend all official contacts with the Americans, both military and civilians, until the party receives a reasonable explanation about what happened, along with an official apology."

It also demanded assurance those responsible would be punished, compensation for the victims and the release of the five detainees.

Supporters of the Iraqi Islamic Party rallied Saturday in Fallujah to protest the raid.

The IIP has been locked in a bitter rivalry with Sunni tribal leaders who joined forces with the United States against al-Qaida in Iraq in so-called Awakening Councils that started in Anbar and spread to other Sunni areas.

That has raised concerns that the political tensions could lead to new violence by disrupting the Sunni revolt, which is considered a key factor in recent security gains.

American forces handed over security responsibility for the province to the Iraqis on Sept. 1 but they retain a presence in Anbar, which stretches west from Baghdad to the borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Also Saturday, about 300 Shiites rallied in the southern city of Basra against a U.S.-Iraqi security pact currently under negotiation.

AP

Protesters chant slogans during a demonstration in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Another aid worker killed in Somalia

**MOGADISHU, Somalia** (AP)—The head of a Somali aid agency says a gunman shot dead a Somali woman employee in the latest of a string of attacks on the humanitarian community. Duniya Sheik Daud was the 15th aid worker killed so far this year in Somalia, which is caught up in a civil war. Ali Sheik, the head of aid agency Iida, said Daud was killed Saturday evening as she returned from work at the organization in the central Somali town of Gurilel. The group campaigns for women's rights and against female genital mutilation. It was unclear who was behind the attack.

#### Anti-Berlusconi protest draws big crowd in Rome

**ROME** (AP)—A huge crowd turned out Saturday to protest the conservative policies of Premier Silvio Berlusconi's government, including plans to cut funding for public universities and hold separate classes for immigrant children. Center-left leader Walter Veltroni, the former Rome mayor whom Berlusconi beat soundly in elections last spring, rallied the crowd, which filled the vast, grassy expanse of Circus Maximus, the ancient Roman entertainment space. "Italy is better than the right-wing coalition that governs it," Veltroni told the crowd to big applause. There was no immediate police estimate of the crowd size, but the field and sloping sides of Circus Maximus can easily hold a couple hundred thousand people.

#### Brazilians vote in runoff mayoral elections

**SAO PAULO, Brazil** (AP)—Brazil's ruling party will likely lose its push to retake control of South America's biggest city on Sunday in mayoral runoff elections that could see the country's second city elect an ex-guerrilla who once kidnapped a U.S. ambassador. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's Workers' Party is poised to gain power in many cities—but lose Sao Paulo, the biggest prize and a springboard for the next presidential election. The latest survey by Datafolha shows incumbent Mayor Gilberto Kassab, of the conservative Democrat Party, nearly 20 points ahead of former Mayor Marta Suplicy of the Workers' Party.

## Mexican town stands up for illegal immigrants

**RAFAEL LARA GRAJALES, Mexico** (AP)—The Sunday afternoon calm was broken by shouts from the small, mission-style house, watched over by a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Bloodied hands punched through the windows. The glass shattered. Suddenly, dozens of people were clambering over the back wall and jumping onto the street below.

Some dropped into the patios of adjoining houses. Most were dressed only in tattered underwear, their bodies marred by dark bruises and angry burns. One man had the handle of a knife poking from his abdomen.

The men and women ran up to shocked townsfolk and pleaded in their Central American accents: We were kidnapped. The local police are involved. Please help.

For a moment, the people of this small Mexican migrant town hesitated. It would be easier, and certainly safer, to go back inside and let the foreigners hide in the surrounding cornfields of this high mountain valley outside Puebla.

## Report: Livni to recommend early Israeli elections

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Prime Minister-designate Tzipi Livni has given up efforts to form a coalition government and will recommend early elections, Israeli radio stations reported Saturday night.

Israel Radio and Army Radio both said that after consulting with her advisers during the evening, Livni decided not to continue coalition talks and to tell President Shimon Peres on Sunday to call a general election, most probably in February. That would be more than a year ahead of schedule.

There was no official announcement and Livni's spokesman did not answer repeated phone calls.

The centrist Kadima party chose Livni, 50, a month ago to succeed Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who is stepping down amid a corruption scandal.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff, vs. DANIEL JOSEPH M. CABRERA and MAGDALENA S. CABRERA, Defendant. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0054 — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 19, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 I 180, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 02, the original of which was recorded March 11, 1983, as Document No. 16707, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and (b) Tract No. 225840-1-1, located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2119/92, deeded to Daniel Muna Cabrera on August 24, 1998, and recorded as File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 7, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd day of October, 2008.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. CARLOS ALDAN AGUON and LOLITA BALUYUT AGUON, Defendant. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-488 — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 55, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1900, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 31, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of September, 2008.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**
**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

## NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS

**Monday, October 27, 2008 first notice**
**Monday, November 03, 2008 second notice**

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

ANY EMPLOYER WHOSE DENIAL AROSE FROM A FAILURE TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION, AND WHOSE DOCUMENTATION IS NOW COMPLETE, MAY REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND HAVE THE DENIAL REMOVED. ANY EMPLOYER WHOSE DENIAL IS REMOVED NEED NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

ANY EMPLOYEE WHO NO LONGER WISHES TO PURSUE EMPLOYMENT WITH THE EMPLOYER LISTED BELOW, AND WISHES TO RE-REGISTER FOR TRANSFER TO ANOTHER EMPLOYER, MAY REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND HAVE THE DENIAL REMOVED. ANY EMPLOYEE WHOSE DENIAL IS REMOVED NEED NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND MAY REGISTER WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR TRANSFER.

| Case No. | Employee | Employer | Hearing Date | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DC 08-1075 | Yu, Ki Young | B & J Corporation | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1025 | Ararao, Jimy C. | Bateman, Bruce A. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1074 | Li, Meiling | Bautista, Stacey N. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1070 | Arcenas, Renante | Commercial Trading of Saipan, Inc. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1072 | Phookhanongsri, Buakhlee | Java Imports, Ltd. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1077 | Huang, Xueqin | Jenner Corporation | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1088 | Herrera, Leopoldo E. | Katayama Sensui Corporation | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1087 | Katayama, Makoto | Katayama Sensui Corporation | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1085 | Ladringan, Eric F. | Ladringan, Benjie F. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1079 | Bermiso, Rolly G. | Manglona, Joaquin M. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1080 | Ebarle, Elbert J. | Manglona, Joaquin M. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1081 | Hermanoche, Diomedes A. | Manglona, Joaquin M. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1082 | Lozada, Bernardino S. | Manglona, Joaquin M. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1083 | Quipot, Richi B. | Manglona, Joaquin M. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1084 | Turani, Norhasi C. | Manglona, Joaquin M. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1078 | Rojo, Juvy M. | Mendiola, Elizabeth M. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1076 | Taguchi, Yasuhito | Rogopes, Eseran R. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1086 | Santos, Augusto I. | Saipan Trolling Co. Inc. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1073 | Wen, Haiqiang | San Nicolas, Vicente | NOV. 06, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1071 | Lahoylahoy, Norbelina F. | Su, Ung Tae | NOV. 06, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-973 | Maglanque, Emeralyn | Woodruff, Stephen C. | NOV. 06, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |

# Health & Fitness

# Getting personal with cancer therapy

By SHARI ROAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The one thing Kevin Carlberg refused to face after his diagnosis with brain cancer in 2002 was anyone's estimate for how long he might live.

His doctors and his family all knew the number: six to 18 months.

"I understand the averages," says Carlberg, a rock musician who had just released a CD and was two months from his wedding date when he was told he had the worst stage of the worst kind of brain cancer, glioblastoma. "But every person is different."

Those words could serve as a new mantra in medicine. After having his tumor removed and undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, Carlberg received a novel treatment that was designed using his own white blood cells and proteins taken from his tumor to prod his immune system into recognizing and attacking more cancer. It's an example of a growing healthcare strategy known as personalized medicine.

In the traditional medical model, patients diagnosed with cancer in a particular organ receive the same medications—usually chemotherapy—delivered in an average dose. But some estimates suggest that as many as 70 percent of cancer patients don't respond to this standard approach. Doctors then go back to the drawing board.

Personalized medicine aims to minimize that one-size-fits-all model by matching each patient to a specific treatment based on the genetic and molecular characteristics of that person's tumor. Doctors can use genetic information gleaned from the tumor itself to choose—or avoid—certain medications for that patient or, as in Carlberg's case, create a treatment specifically for that person.

Not so long ago, "most lung cancers were treated the same way; colon cancer the same way. Breast cancer was treated one of two ways," says Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical and translational research at Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of California, Los Angeles and a pioneer of personalized cancer care. "But that was as sophisticated as it got, and we had huge variations in patients' outcomes. That should have told us we were dealing with different diseases."

Personalized medicine is gaining momentum in many areas of treatment. But its greatest application might be in the complex field of cancer, says Dr. Robert Figlin, director of the City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center in Duarte, Calif.

"Cancer is a disease which has been misnamed," Figlin says. "It's not a disease. It's hundreds of diseases."

Personalized medical care is a practical benefit from the Human Genome Project, the 13-year project, completed in 2003, that gave scientists a precision map of the genetic information of humans. Completion of the genome project allowed them to easily locate genetic differences between individuals, including gene variations that cause disease, as well as molecular changes that sometimes turn cells rogue.

"This revolution in molecular biology has translated to understanding ... the reasons why cancer grows," says Dr. Roy S. Herbst, chief of the section of thoracic medical oncology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Six years ago, a vaccine designed specifically for musician Kevin Carlberg, shown with his daughter, helped him beat back an aggressive type of brain cancer.

For example, he says, in traditional practice, doctors removing a tumor send it to a lab to be categorized by size and shape.

But now in some cancers—not yet all—doctors can examine the tissue for specific genes and molecular processes that suggest the cause of a cancer, its potential to grow and what it might take to subdue it.

Personalized medicine—luckily—doesn't mean that every cancer is unique and must be treated in a unique way, Slamon says. In a group of 1 million people with breast cancer, for example, there are not 1 million types of cancer. Rather, "There may be seven or eight different subgroups," he says, each with a different molecular cause that warrants a different approach to treatment.

To identify these sub-types of cancer, doctors search for biomarkers, molecular indicators of how that tumor will respond to various drugs. Slamon, for example, worked for more than a decade trying to understand a protein biomarker called HER2.

About 25 percent of women with breast cancer carry a gene mutation that triggers an excess production of HER2. This protein makes the cancer more aggressive and difficult to treat. The discovery led to a drug called Herceptin, approved in 1998, which specifically targets HER2 and decreases cancer recurrences in these women by as much as 50 percent.

Drugs tailored to a particular genetic or molecular mechanism are called targeted therapies because they home in on the biological signature of that tumor. They are often less harsh than standard chemotherapy because they target only the cancer cells without harming healthy cells. For example, therapeutic cancer vaccines, which are being used to treat several types of cancer, are designed to activate the immune system to recognize and kill only cancer cells.

Carlberg's treatment involved just such a vaccine. To make it, Dr. Linda Liau, director of UCLA's brain tumor program, isolated proteins from his tumor, mixed it with immune cells from his blood and injected the mixture. The vaccine was designed to prime the body's immune system to recognize and attack cancer cells.

After six years in remission, Carlberg, 31, recently had another small tumor removed and began receiving chemotherapy and the personalized vaccine therapy again.

Although he had never heard of a cancer vaccine, Carlberg thought the idea sounded brilliant. "It made perfect sense to me," he says. "Forty years from now I hope I can say I was among the first people to conquer this cancer because of the vaccine. That would be amazing."

Cancer vaccines have the potential to do more than shrink an already-grown tumor, says Liau, a professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

"Once we are able to prolong life through molecular targeted cocktails of treatment, I think the next step is to cure it, by giving something like a vaccine that really tries to get rid of the microscopic cancer cells and prevent the cancer from coming back."

Personalized cancer treatments are being tested in many types of cancers, particularly those most difficult to cure.

Lung cancer, which strikes 215,000 Americans a year and kills almost 162,000, is one area of rapid advancement. Doctors are now looking at several biomarkers that can dictate the course of treatment, says Dr. Karen Reckamp, assistant professor of medical oncology and hematology at City of Hope.

Tarceva is a targeted therapeutic drug that has extended the lives of many people with advanced non-small cell lung cancer. But about 25 percent of people with such lung cancer have mutations in a gene called KRAS. In people with this mutation, Tarceva is ineffective.

"In the last five years, we understand the biology of lung cancer significantly better than we ever did," Reckamp says. "This means that we can give the appropriate drug or treatment to the appropriate person at the right time."

Patient safety is another bonus of personalized therapy. For example, researchers have found that some children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia carry a gene mutation that causes a standard drug used to treat the disease to build up in the body and cause dangerous side effects. These children are identified before treatment begins and receive smaller doses to prevent toxicity.

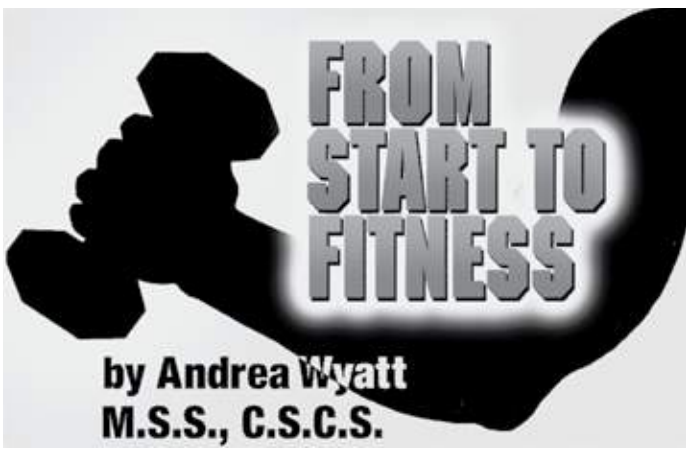
As cancer specialists learn more about the variability of tumors, some of the news they give patients isn't good. Personal cancer care sometimes means that patients are told a particular drug—often promising for some people—will not work for them.

"People think of personalized medicine as `If my doctor knew what I had, the results of the treatment would be better.' That is our hope as well," Figlin says. "But the reality is we also identify genetic abnormalities in cancer that predict why a certain treatment may not work."

Nonetheless, after a slow start, the field of personalized medicine is gathering steam as researchers and drug companies focus more on drugs to target subsets of patients instead of blockbuster medications aimed at treating all of them. According to the research company Datamonitor, sales of targeted cancer therapies grew 33 percent worldwide last year. Since 2005, 10 targeted drugs have come on the market.

Slamon spent years trying to persuade others that targeting HER2 would cure some women of breast cancer. Eventually, the drug company Genentech developed Herceptin.

"Drug development is becoming more complex and more challenging as we understand more," Slamon says. "But that is how it has to be if we're going to treat cancer more effectively."




# Fitness Back-Up Plan

By Andrea Renee Wyatt, M.S.S., C.S.C.S.
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Setting a realistic fitness schedule is one of the most important elements in developing a successful fitness and nutrition routine.

It is equally important to remember that each day may not work out exactly as we had planned. Emergencies, family priorities and last-minute appointments all can put a wrench in the most carefully planned fitness regimen.

Establishing a fitness back-up plan can eliminate the stress or guilt that can occur from the inability to follow your fitness routine completely. The key is to remain active and look for opportunities to squeeze alternative activities into your day.

Here are some tips:

■ Stretch. Take several minutes out of your day to stretch your whole body. Stretching your shoulders, neck, back, arms and legs can help you relax and promote blood flow to areas of the body that may otherwise remain sedentary and tense all day.

■ Take the stairs! Walk the stairs instead of using the elevator. Climbing a few flights of stairs several times a day will increase your heart rate slightly and help burn extra calories.

■ Park the car and walk. Don't keep driving around the parking lot looking for a close-in space to become available. The extra few feet you may have to walk to reach your destination is a great way to stimulate your muscles.

■ Eat breakfast. Starting your day with a well-balanced meal is extremely important to kick-start your metabolism and prepare your body for the day's activities.

■ Take a walk. You may have missed your favorite aerobic class at the gym, but you can still complete your aerobic workout. Taking a walk or cycling are great alternatives that can be done almost anywhere.

■ Drink plenty of water. Staying hydrated is always important. Water helps the functions of your muscles and tissues, and can act as an appetite suppressant.

■ Play with the kids. Running around with (or after) the kids is a fun way to exercise. The constant moving, bending and reaching incorporate all of the components of most fitness programs.

While these fitness back-up tips cannot replace the benefits of a dedicated fitness routine, they are a healthy alternative to doing nothing when your fitness program gets sidetracked.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

# Life & Style

## Home that nurtured a star now harbors a calamity

**CHICAGO** (AP)—It was the cradle of Jennifer Hudson's greatest triumphs. It's now the scene of her darkest hour. The Oscar-winning actress and singer has often credited her rise to fame to her upbringing in the impoverished neighborhood on Chicago's South Side where she went to grade school and sang in church.

At that church, her sister pleaded for the safe return of her 7-year-old son, Julian, on Saturday, a day after the siblings' mother and brother were found shot to death at the family home in the Englewood neighborhood. "I don't care who you are, just let the baby go," Julia Hudson said to a crowd from the podium of the Pleasant Gift Missionary Baptist Church with the boy's father, Greg King, at her side.

"I know he's out there," she pleaded. "Just let him go. Put him on the side of the street. He'll sit there. Somebody will see him. He'll probably cry until somebody comes along."

Authorities were holding a suspect with ties to the family, but no one had been charged Saturday. Law enforcement sources told the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times that William Balfour was in custody, and the man's mother said he is Julia Hudson's estranged husband.

Julia Hudson did not address her relationship to Balfour, who was named in an Amber Alert issued after Julian's disappearance. An alert remained in effect Saturday warning people to be on the lookout for Julian, possibly in a white Chevy Suburban.

Julia Hudson noted that her brother's white truck was missing, but authorities did not say if it was the same vehicle mentioned in the Amber Alert or whether they were seeking additional suspects.

"My greatest fear has already happened," Julia Hudson said. "My greatest hope is finding my child

An autopsy Saturday showed Darnell Donerson, 57, and Jason Hudson, 29, died of gunshot wounds, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. Their deaths were ruled homicides.

Police said a family member entering Donerson's South Side home Friday found a woman's body on the living room floor.

AP

A photo released Oct. 24, 2008, by the Chicago Police Department shows 7-year-old Julian King. Chicago Police issued an Amber Alert Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 for King, who police say may be related to singer and Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**
**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

## NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS

**Monday, October 20, 2008 first notice**
**Monday, October 27, 2008 second notice**

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

ANY EMPLOYER WHOSE DENIAL AROSE FROM A FAILURE TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION, AND WHOSE DOCUMENTATION IS NOW COMPLETE, MAY REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND HAVE THE DENIAL REMOVED. ANY EMPLOYER WHOSE DENIAL IS REMOVED NEED NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

ANY EMPLOYEE WHO NO LONGER WISHES TO PURSUE EMPLOYMENT WITH THE EMPLOYER LISTED BELOW, AND WISHES TO RE-REGISTER FOR TRANSFER TO ANOTHER EMPLOYER, MAY REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND HAVE THE DENIAL REMOVED. ANY EMPLOYEE WHOSE DENIAL IS REMOVED NEED NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND MAY REGISTER WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR TRANSFER.

| Case No. | Employee | Employer | Hearing Date | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DC 08-1049 | Yoo, MN Ki | Abana Co., Ltd. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-995 | Padayao, Veronica C. | Alpex Saipan Inc. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-994 | Sagarino, Nicasio D. | Alpex Saipan Inc. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-847 | Clavecillas, Erwin C. | Atalig, Felipe Q. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1050 | Lu, Shenghua | Borja, Hong Hua Lu | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1063 | Garcia, Raquel S. | Candy Carousel Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1065 | Gomez, Marie Joy M. | Candy Carousel Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1066 | Manansala, Levita I. | Candy Carousel Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1064 | Payoc, Lorelie B. | Candy Carousel Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1045 | Dela Rama, Melbert V. | CPS Electric Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1054 | Kim, In Chull | Dipoto Corporation | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-227 | Jeong, Ouk Soon | Dong Rim Corporation | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1052 | Dela Cruz, Rufina S. | Eastern Hope Corporation | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-740 | Yu, Xiaomei | Geng Biao Corp. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-950 | Shi, Xuehong | Global Ground Corporation | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-651 | Lactao, Eric G. | Han Nam Corp. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-243 | Cruz, Felix H. | Hart, Arlene D. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-244 | Palma, Rowena P. | Hart, Arlene D. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-993 | Japitana, Carmen M. | Hotel Riviera Saipan, Inc. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1061 | Li, Defu | Huang Zheng Corp. Ltd. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1062 | Jin, Fu Shun | Hyoduk Corporation | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1057 | Valle, Eugenia S. | Iceberg Corporation | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1051 | Ahn, Yong Kil | Jang's & Shun Corp. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1056B | Casuncad, Rosalie C. | K.S. Chang Corporation | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-999 | Alcaraz, Gabriel A. | Kevin International Corporation | OCT. 31, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1000 | Qian, Jian | Kevin International Corporation | OCT. 31, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-559 | Santos, Eugenio Jr., C. | Kintol, James P. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1069 | Perez, Mary Yvette T. | Little Darlings Child & Respite | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-984 | Wu, Sue | Lizama, Aldebert B. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1056A | Josue, Cecilia G. | Marianas Psychiatric Services | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-671 | Ancheta, Marilou N. | Meros Corporation | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-294 | Li, Ling | New Pacifiaisia Trading Inc. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1024 | Jose, Jovito V. | Pangelinan, Gonzalo Dlg. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1043 | Isip, Nila A. | Reyes, Barbara Ann | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1067 | Dalusong, Aurora P. | S.G.B.H. Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1068 | Valencia, Inea S. | S.G.B.H. Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-656 | Caintoy, Raquel U. | Sablan, Deverly Davina M. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1019 | Kim, Young Mi | Saipan Ivy Academy, Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-815B | Malig, Danilo R. | Salas, Joseph S. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1059 | Wang, Xiaoying | San Nicolas, Vicente P. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1044 | Diaz, Ricky Demdam | Sara Enterprises Inc. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1060 | Zou, Shuang | Seman, Enrique K. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1053 | Li, Qinghua | Stone Corporation | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-682 | Yang, Laiyi | Sunlight Corporation | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1046 | Ysmael, Josefina S. | The Flair Co. Ltd. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-818 | Lee, Haet Nim | The Flair Co., Ltd. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1047 | Palumar, Clarissa O. | The Flair Co., Ltd. | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-1058 | Lamis, Rey N. | Wons Corporation | OCT. 30, 2008 | 1:00 P.M. |
| DC 08-1055 | Wang, Chun Yan | Yao Bang Development Corporation | OCT. 30, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |
| DC 08-805 | Thosa, Kiriyaporn | Younis Art Studio, Inc. | OCT. 31, 2008 | 9:00 A.M. |

## NOTICE OF SECRETARY'S ORDER ON APPEAL

**Monday, October 20, 2008 first notice**
**Monday, October 27, 2008 second notice**

Orders have been issued in the cases listed below and the parties have not picked up these orders after attempted service. By this notice, these parties are served with a copy of the order, which may be picked up at the Administrative Hearing Office, as of the second publication of this notice.

| Case No. | Appellant | Appelllee |
|---|---|---|
| DC 07-412 | Three Nine Corporation | Director of Labor |
| DC 07-412 | Zhao, Yuehui | Director of Labor |
| DC 08-494 | Posadas, Segundo | Director of Labor |
| DC 08-494 | Chumjai, Chonnikan | Director of Labor |

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**
**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

## NOTICE OF CLOSURE OR DISMISSAL DENIAL CASES

**Monday, October 27, 2008, first notice**
**Monday, November 03, 2008, second notice**

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING DENIAL CASES:

Each of the denial cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims, including all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant who has not been served personally or by mail with the hearing officer's order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the second date of publication of this notice, served with the order. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the second date of publication of this notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or otherwise on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

| Case No. | Employee | Employer |
|---|---|---|
| DC 08-042 | Pantola, Lorenzo N. | Ablog, Nestor R. |
| DC 08-041 | Tapang, Restituto C. | Ablog, Nestor R. |
| DC 08-771 | Ni, Chunqin | Blue Sky Int'l. Saipan Corp. |
| DC 07-370 | Palaganas, Edwin C. | Cabrera, Francisco C. |
| DC 08-368 | Navarro, Mary Ann M. | Castro, Dewayne Patrick O. |
| DC 08-258 | Liu, Xingguo | Century Corp. |
| DC 08-085 | Huang, Lian Jin | Chunshan Corporation |
| DC 08-941 | Raut, Shyam K. | Concepcion, Ignacio S. |
| DC 08-519 | Zhang, Yong | Cui Rong Corporation |
| DC 08-040 | Jiang, Huishu | Future World Inc. |
| DC 07-322 | Agustin, Millie Grace D. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-402 | Aspe, Victoria A. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-328 | Asuncion, Leomhar E. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-335 | Babila, Punay D. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-388 | Bacerdo, Erlinda O. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-329 | Braza, Adelina De O. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-338 | Cabrera, Maria Cristina B. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-336 | Clemente, Rosario J. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-430 | Corrales, Venerando M. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-405 | Dacuno, Marites A. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-348 | De Mesa, Ruel Y. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-342 | Dela Cruz, Alona R. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-340 | Dela Rosa, Filipina D. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-331 | Espinosa, Nenita A. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-344 | Fabian, Dennis P. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-349 | Galario, Alexander R. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-390 | Galvez, Virgilia P. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-345 | Gorembalem, Francisco C. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-333 | Landicho, Evangeline B. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-391 | Lapat, Valeriano P. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-330 | Leonor, Narciso A. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-337 | Malapo, Helen M. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-334 | Mendoza, Edna M. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-332 | Nicolas, Elvira G. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-385 | Ocampo, Alicia M. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-406 | Pattung, Josephine C. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-326 | Penalosa, Guillerma D. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |

| Case No. | Employee | Employer |
|---|---|---|
| DC 07-327 | Pineda, Teresita B. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-339 | Rebultan, Milagrosa R. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-347 | Sadiua, Fabio II T. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-343 | Soriano, Jocelyn D. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 07-341 | Teodoro, Amelia A. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| DC 08-090 | Livado, Abner A. | Inter Pacific Resort Corp. |
| DC 07-501 | Alam, Touhida | Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc. Inc. |
| DC 07-352 | Fang, Wenhuang | Kileleman, Joaquin S. |
| DC 07-351 | Xu, Jinluan | Kileleman, Joaquin S. |
| DC 08-562 | Chul, Yoon | KMH Corporation |
| DC 08-467 | Bae, Jungbyung | Kosa Pacific, Inc. |
| DC 08-038 | Pak, Yong Jong | L And Y Corp. |
| DC 08-096 | Li, Huiqin | L Xin Corporation |
| DC 08-486 | Dela Cruz, Rosario A. | Lagartos, Rolando |
| DC 08-005 | Salonoy, Mamerto M. | Milne & Reyes Enterprises |
| DC 08-611 | Shimizu, Maimi | Moana Corporation |
| DC 08-705 | Tenebro, Loreto E. | Northern Marianas Fisheries |
| DC 08-011 | He, Juhua | Pacifc Horizon, Ltd. |
| DC 07-350 | Romero, Eric A. | Pangelinan, Mariano |
| DC 07-401 | Mananggit, Benedicto A. | Pelisamen, Maria E. |
| DC 08-139 | Monteclaro, Bernarda S. | Pelisamen, Maria E. |
| DC 08-058 | Argabioso, Wilma M. | SBR Ent. Inc. |
| DC 08-059 | Sabugo, Felicidad S. | SBR Ent. Inc. |
| DC 08-909 | Shan, Rongmei | Seman, Enrique K. |
| DC 08-320 | Cortez, Emyln A. | Tababa, Dionesio |
| DC 08-317 | Dacuno, Irenea Y. | Tababa, Dionesio |
| DC 08-318 | Nagpacan, Edwin G. | Tababa, Dionesio |
| DC 08-319 | Catbagan, Victoria L. | Tababa, Dionesio M. Jr. |
| DC 08-824 | Chua, Oscar G. | Tenorio, Elizabeth K. |
| DC 08-152 | Marzan, Lydia Timotea R. | Tenorio, Ray And Janice |
| DC 08-083 | Tesoro, Pancid N. | Untalan, Magdalena |
| DC 07-434 | De Belen, Ronilo L. | Villagomez, Gloria G. |
| DC 07-0461 | Navarro, Jeremy L. | Villagomez, Gloria G. |
| DC 08-814 | Genobaten, Ana Marie O. | Viray, Clarito C. |
| DC 08-019 | Cai, Zhen | Zheng Shi Corporation |
| DC 08-468 | Huang, Haixia | Zhong Run Commercial Co., Inc. |

# Hollywood feeling pinch amid economic worries

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—When Paul Hodges lost his job as a newspaper librarian this summer, he cut back on junk food, canceled his Netflix subscription, went back to his old DVDs and tried to stop buying new ones.

"I had to scale back like everyone," said Hodges, a 35-year-old homeowner in Coral Springs, Fla. "It forced me to prioritize things."

In past downturns, Hollywood earned a reputation for being "recession-proof" as U.S. consumers' movie spending kept growing steadily. This time, the industry is coming off three years of nearly flat spending, and there are cracks in its armor: Home video sales slipped this month as consumer confidence fell again amid rising unemployment and a crashing stock market.

Blu-ray discs are seen on display at Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif., Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008. AP

But studios - which profit more from distributing a movie on DVD than they do from its theatrical release - are faring better than other companies dependent on discretionary spending. And many Hollywood executives remain optimistic.

"The bottom hasn't fallen out of it," said Steve Feldstein, a vice president at Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, owned by News Corp. "Historically, home entertainment has withstood economic downturns. Most folks would rather watch a movie than watch the stock market."

In fact, Fox plans a massive marketing push before "Horton Hears a Who!" is released on DVD Dec. 9, including a balloon in New York's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Several of the six major studios' parent companies have been buffeted this year by a variety of factors, most notably lower ad spending. The drop has squeezed profits in television and publishing at such conglomerates as The Walt Disney Co., which owns ABC and ESPN; at News Corp., which owns newspapers, two dozen TV stations and Twentieth Century Fox; and at Time Warner Inc., which owns AOL, Time Inc. magazines and Warner Bros. At Disney, for example, a consumer slowdown could hurt the merchandise business and crimp attendance at theme parks and resorts, and its stock fell Tuesday when securities analysts noted this.

Even though the ad decline hasn't cut parent companies' profits so significantly that studios must give up the cash they're used to living on, Wall Street has punished the parent companies with a typical drop around 30 percent, a bit more than the S&P 500 has lost so far in the current downturn. But many other companies that rely on discretionary spending have seen their stock drop much further - by half or more - in the last six weeks.

There are signs of caution at studios.

This month, NBC Universal, a subsidiary of General Electric Co., announced it will cut its spending next year about $500 million, or 3 percent, to stay ahead of the downturn. At Paramount Pictures, a Viacom Inc. unit, the wide release of two movies has been pushed until January to delay spending on marketing, and the studio plans to make six fewer movies a year going forward.

Earlier this year, Warner Bros. cut production by 19 films a year, after eliminating its Picturehouse and Warner Independent labels and absorbing New Line Cinema - a clear move to cut costs and focus in-house spending on the movies known as "tent poles" for their all-inclusive appeal.

But the vast empires of media conglomerates actually help insulate Hollywood from the credit crunch. Cable networks, TV stations and theme parks generate billions in free cash flows to help fund new movies—boom, bust or fail.

Big-ticket movies are typically financed with in-house cash or company credit lines. Some projects are financed 50 percent by private equity, but those are usually riskier and smaller productions. Studios often become distributors on such tie-ups anyway, and secure themselves with agreements that recoup their distribution and advertising costs up front.

Already in 2008, only about a quarter of Warner Bros.' 33 movies were co-financed, said Wunderlich Securities analyst Martin Pyykkonen. With Time Warner Inc. businesses "still spewing off plenty of free cash to invest" and private equity players still in the market, financing blockbusters won't be a problem, he said.

"I'm just saying there are ways to get these done that may not be obvious," he said.

That is, no matter what happens in the larger credit market and even outside financing, you can bank on the next "Harry Potter" movies being made.

Even if equity investors do follow the example from July of Deutsche Bank in walking away from film financing, studios may be just as happy. Paramount said then, as Deutsche Bank abandoned it, that it preferred other financing options. And the studios use outside equity in varying proportions.

The lingering worry is that the famously resilient consumer will not buy as many videos through the holidays.

"They'll still be buying content, whether it's music or DVDs, but my guess is ... they'll be a little more selective," said Russ Crupnick, a digital media analyst for NPD Group. "That's where the economy is going to be hit."

Hodges, the Florida librarian, is not alone borrowing videos at the public library and re-watching his own collection. Video rental revenue in the U.S. in the first nine months of the year was off 1.2 percent at $5.6 billion, according to the industry tracker, Video Business. Video sales were down 3.5 percent at $8.6 billion, it said. Box office receipts through Oct. 5 were flat at $7.25 billion, though attendance slipped.

If credit remains tight, that could force some retrenchment in the future, but Fitch Ratings analyst Jamie Rizzo said it would generally affect lower-budget projects. Niche movies like breakout hit "Juno" - the type more typically co-financed - may be dropped for more likely hits such as sequels to blockbusters, he said.

Most studios are holding firm and plan to make 20 to 30 movies a year. "It'll take a few years for the slack to kind of fall out of the system," Rizzo said. "Two or three years out is when you'll really see not as many films."

The impact of a final factor - movie piracy - is unclear. Studios say copyright violations cost them billions of dollars a year, losses they are trying to offset with a rush to ad-supported movie and TV show streaming on the Internet.

The brightest ray of hope appears to be Blu.

Blu-ray disc sales are up 320 percent in September to 1.05 million units in the U.S., as the equipment gets into more homes, according to Redhill Group Inc.

While that doesn't make up for the decline in DVD sales, many expect growth in the high-definition format to turn the home video market around next year as prices drop for entry-level players.

"So far, the tracking that we see does not suggest that people have slowed down much" in their uptake of the format, said Tom Adams, president of Adams Media Research.

And there's something about superhero movies that brings out the best in consumers.

Hodges busted his spending restraints to see "The Dark Knight," and after finding a new job at Strayer University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., last month, he turned his Netflix account back on. He even bought "Iron Man" on DVD.

"A recession is a recession, but you still have to be a human being," he said. "You can't turn into a monk and just sit in a room with a chair."

# Museum features Kansas town that went green

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Tiny Greensburg, Kan., rebuilding from scratch after nearly being wiped away by a tornado last year, is quickly becoming a model for going green.

Along with Masdar City, a planned car-free community outside Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, and other developments, the rural Kansas town offers vivid examples of sustainable living in "Green Community," a new exhibit at the National Building Museum. The exhibit opened Thursday and will run for a year.

"They are really making a wonderful opportunity out of an absolute tragedy," curator and architect Susan Piedmont-Palladino said of Greensburg. "Masdar and Greensburg do make a really good pair because they're both looking at the whole package of green technologies—from very old ways of doing things to high-tech ways."

Where windmills once dotted the Kansas landscape, Greensburg plans to embrace them again to harvest enough wind energy to power the town of about 700, which had twice as many residents before the tornado.

Greensburg gets only 22 inches of rain a year, so street runoff and rainwater that hits buildings will be collected and used to irrigate plants, part of a master plan that "treats each drop of water as a precious resource," said Stephen Hardy, a city planner with the architectural firm BNIM, which is helping with the effort.

And the town has resolved to build public buildings—from city hall to the hospital and school—that meet the most stringent standards for efficient design. Even the John Deere dealership is pursuing certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and plans to sell wind turbines for homes and businesses.

"Any time you're trying to rebuild a town, there are huge economic hurdles," Hardy said. "The fundamental shift in their thinking is they don't want to build a building they'll be paying for for 20 years. They want a building that will be paying them back."

The Building Museum exhibit breaks some traditional rules by using no precious artifacts and few physical objects to tell the story of green communities. It doesn't feature pieces from a tornado-damaged home, for example.

Instead, it uses satellite photos, community snapshots, short documentaries and interactive displays on the myriad ways people can make their hometowns greener.

The center of the space is like walking through a huge bar graph. Giant, transparent columns are filled with shredded tires or plastic bottles—materials otherwise headed to the dump. Marked on the columns are raw statistics on recycling or mass-transit use among various cities.

The numbers show Houston has the lowest recycling rate, with just 2.6 percent of the city's trash being salvaged, while San Francisco, which has an organic composting program for food scraps, topped the chart at 70 percent.

"None of these issues are brand new," Piedmont-Palladino said. "Ever since the Roman senate passed a law requiring water to be stored for dry periods, it sort of reminds us that ... it's been the key to successful living forever. We have just forgotten."

More than a dozen communities are noted in the exhibit, and they offer a mosaic of green initiatives worldwide, Piedmont-Palladino said.

"There's no single way to go green," she said.

Atlanta, for example, is featured for its redevelopment of an old steel mill site in the walkable Atlantic Station development.

This is the Building Museum's third in a series of green-themed exhibits, which have drawn record numbers of visitors despite the museum's not being on the usual Washington tourism route. The last exhibit, "The Green House," drew more than 130,000, including first lady Laura Bush, museum spokeswoman Jasmine Zick said.

Having small towns and big cities embrace environmentally friendly architecture and technologies will help change people's minds about how realistic environmental building can be, Piedmont-Palladino said.

In Greensburg, the vision to go green has helped maintain an optimism that the town can indeed rebound from all it has lost.

"Ninety percent of the town was just gone overnight, and yet the social fabric was intact even without the buildings," Hardy said. "That has driven them in a way that's unlike any community I've worked with."

## Reports: Soviet-era singer Magomayev dies at 66

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Russian news agencies say Soviet-era opera and pop singer Muslim Magomayev has died. He was 66.

The agencies do not give a cause for the Azeri-born baritone's death Saturday morning.

ITAR-Tass news agency cites his widow Tamara Sinyavskaya as saying he died at his Moscow apartment after a long illness. Other news agencies cite the government as their source.

In July, Azeri news agency APA reported that Magomayev suffered from heart disease.

Magomayev started his career as an opera singer, but sold millions of albums and concert tickets after switching to popular music. His fame was at its peak in the 1960s and 70s.

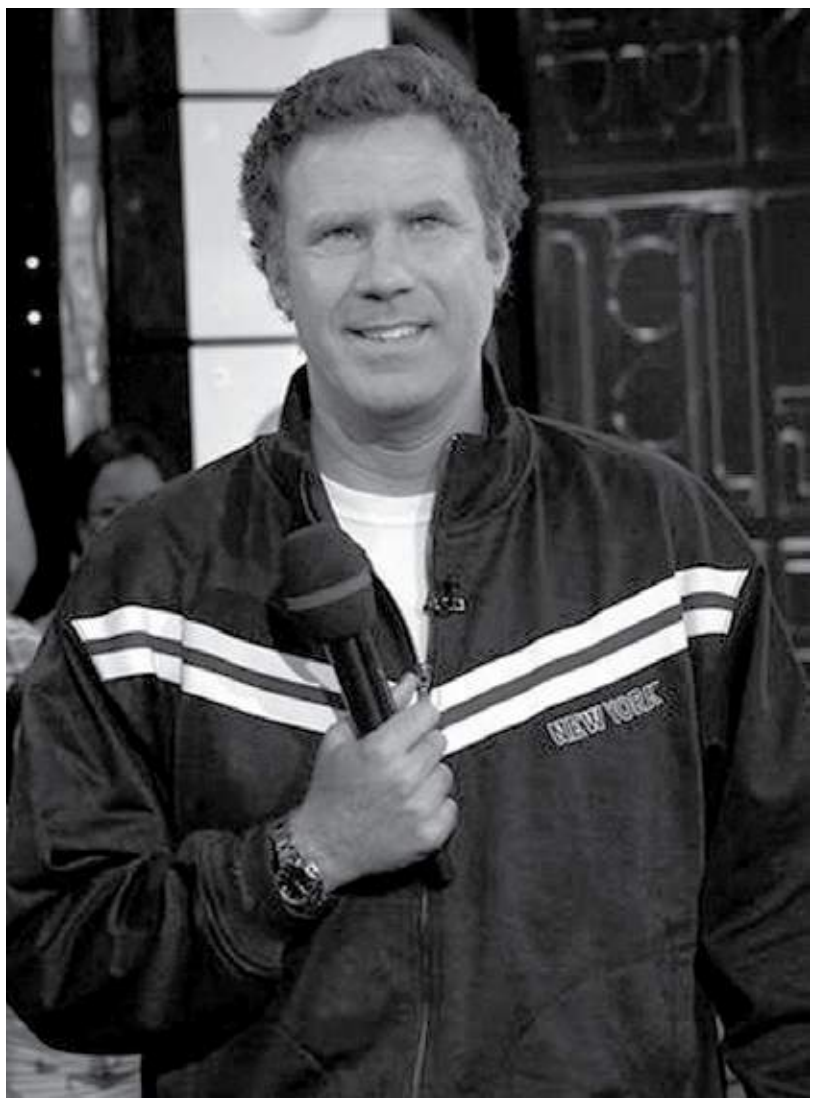
His grandfather, also named Muslim, was a composer of opera and folk music.

# Will Ferrell's Bush meets Fey's Palin on 'SNL'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Appearing as President Bush on the prime-time edition of "Saturday Night Live," Will Ferrell offered his political "strategery" to Tina Fey's Sarah Palin. Ferrell reprised his famed impression of the president on the live "Weekend Update" special Thursday to give an "impromptu" evening address to the nation.

He spoke about the election between John McCain and Barack Obama - both candidates, he said, that are "heavily patriotized" and "display much characterization."

He then gave his endorsement to McCain and Palin, something that they apparently didn't want. Ferrell said he was unaware that his approval ratings were low because he had several months ago declared the Oval Office a "bummer free zone."



AP

This Monday, July 31, 2006 file photo shows actor Will Ferrell onstage during a pre-taping of MTV's "Total Request Live" at the MTV Times Square Studios in New York.

Speaking to Fey again appearing as Palin, Ferrell informed her that her role as vice president was "the most important in the land" and that the "president can do nothing without checking with the vice president." Fey corrected him that he had it backward.

Eventually Darrell Hammond as McCain turned up to reluctantly receive the endorsement.

The sketch between Ferrell and Fey was the meeting of two of the most popular political impressions in the show's history. It might have been complete only if Chevy Chase stopped by as Gerald Ford, Dana Carvey appeared as H.W. Bush and Amy Poehler joined as Hillary Rodham Clinton.

An alum to the NBC comedy show, Ferrell was the latest guest star to make an appearance on "SNL," which has seen its ratings soar this election season. Fey has become a virtual cast member again, thanks to the popularity of her Palin impression, while other surprise guests have included Chris Parnell, Bill Murray, Mark Wahlberg, Alec Baldwin and Queen Latifah.

Ferrell, a regular on "SNL" from 1995-2002, will in January begin a solo show on Broadway titled, "You're Welcome America: A Final Night with George W. Bush."

A regular episode of "SNL" will air Saturday with Jon Hamm ("Mad Men") hosting and musical guest Coldplay.

## SNL's Amy Poehler now a real baby mama

AP

Actress Amy Poehler makes an appearance on MTV's "Total Request Live" at MTV Studios in this Tuesday, April 22, 2008 file photo taken in New York.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—"Saturday Night Live" just won't be the same without Amy Poehler—who delivered a baby boy hours before the "Baby Mama" star was to appear on the NBC show.

The live show's parody news anchor was missing from her spot alongside Seth Myers on "Weekend Update" because she gave birth earlier Saturday.

On behalf of Poehler and her husband, Will Arnett, "I can confirm that Amy gave birth to Archie Arnett on Saturday," read a statement from Poehler's spokesman, Lewis Kay.

The baby was born early Saturday evening in New York, weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

Mother and child were "healthy and resting comfortably," according to the statement.

Poehler, who performed on Thursday night's special edition of "SNL" and is known for playing Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, was rehearsing the show until Friday. She also starred opposite Tina Fey in this year's "Baby Mama" as a working class girl who agrees to be a surrogate mother for a single businesswoman.

## Former Grateful Dead keyboardist Saunders dies

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Merl Saunders, a jazz and rock keyboardist who collaborated with iconic acts including Miles Davis and the Grateful Dead, has died. He was 74.

Saunders died Friday at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco of complications due to a stroke, said his son, Merl Saunders Jr.

"We loved him very much—and we know that you, his fans, did too," his family said in a statement posted on Saunders' Web site. "He was a special man, a beautiful companion, father, grandfather, and family patriarch, and the proof of that spirit is in the way you've reached out to us at his passing."

Born in San Mateo, Calif., Saunders attended high school with Johnny Mathis in San Francisco. One of Saunders' very first performances was a high school event with Mathis, Saunders Jr. said.

Some of Saunders' most famous music was made in the 1960s and 1970s when he teamed up with the Grateful Dead's lead guitarist and singer, Jerry Garcia. The Saunders-Garcia Band recorded two records in the 1970s and the two would play together on an array of projects until Garcia's death in 1995.

In 1990 Saunders and Garcia released the album "Blues from the Rainforest" that achieved success on the new age music charts.

## Writer of Trump book won't have to reveal sources

**CAMDEN, N.J.** (AP)—An author doesn't have to reveal his sources for a book in which he claimed Donald Trump's wealth was in the millions, not billions.

The ruling by a New Jersey appellate panel Friday reverses a 2006 decision to compel the disclosure.

Trump sued author Timothy O'Brien and Time Warner Book Group over the book "TrumpNation: The Art of Being the Donald." It claimed Trump was worth between $150 million and $250 million.

Trump says the book damaged his reputation and argues that his fortune was closer to $2.7 billion.

The judges wrote that details of Trump's life are matters of public interest and therefore are protected.

Numerous publishers of books, magazines and newspapers had joined the appeal, as well as broadcasters and other media organizations, including The Associated Press.

AP

Donald Trump arrives for a Trump event in this Jan. 17, 2007 file photo taken in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

## Stranger's kindness touches woman during son's illness

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** With Halloween approaching, I would like to share a young man's act of kindness that will stay with me forever.

In October 2005, my lively and energetic 7-year-old son, Matthew, was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor. After successfully completing treatment, he was back to his old self and happily making plans for the summer. Unfortunately, by the following summer his tumor was growing back, and there was nothing the doctors could do.

One evening in July we ordered a pizza to be delivered. Matthew told me that for Halloween he wanted to dress like a pizza delivery man, and asked if he could talk to the man when he came to the house. Because of the tumor, Matthew's speech was difficult to understand. His right side was paralyzed, and his body was swollen from steroids, so I was concerned about how the person would react. I was hesitant, but agreed.

When the delivery man arrived, I was shocked to see how young he was. I told him my son was sick but wanted to meet him because he wanted to dress like a pizza delivery man for Halloween. Without hesitation the young man came in and talked to Matthew about his job. He even gave Matthew his name tag to wear as part of his costume on Halloween. I was so impressed with that young man. He wasn't taken aback by my son's appearance, as so many of our adult friends had been, and he made Matthew so happy.

Matthew was in the hospital by Halloween, but he wore the man's pin on his hospital gown. It was my son's last Halloween, and I'm thankful that this young man was so caring and considerate. His name is Jeff, and his kindness should be an example to everyone.

LINDA IN MASSACHUSETTS

**DEAR LINDA: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your son. Your letter touched my heart. Thank you for writing to remind my readers and me what a difference a simple act of kindness can make in the life of another person.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 15 and I detest my best friend's boyfriend, "Chip." He is racist, homophobic and sexist. He is also blatant about his opinions, whether or not people want to hear them. All of "Sadie's" other friends agree he's a complete jerk, and not only that, he takes up all her time.

Sadie is smart. She realizes Chip has those traits. Somehow she doesn't care about his defects and looks past them. I'm not really scared for her safety. Chip seems to be nice to her.

I can't stand to be around the guy, but that means I don't get to talk to my best friend most of the time. I am trying to be nice to Chip, and I have talked to Sadie about this, but nothing works! Please help. I'm at the end of my rope.

DIVIDED FRIEND IN SANTA CRUZ, CALIF.

**DEAR DIVIDED FRIEND: Accept the fact that your friend is distracted right now, and concentrate on your relationship with the other girls in your group. You might be able to arrange some alone time with Sadie if you invite her for a sleepover once in a while—but understand that her main focus is on her boyfriend. Until Sadie realizes for herself that Chip's attitude and behavior are an embarrassment and a reflection on her, this situation won't change.**

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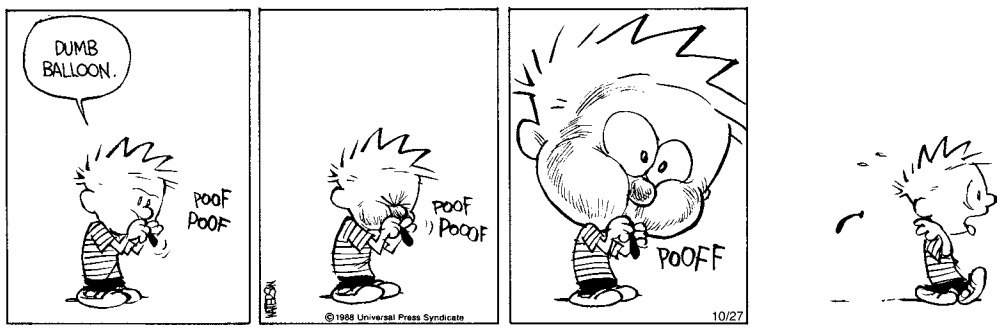
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson




## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JIM DAVIS 10-27
www.garfield.com
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I'LL NEVER EAT AN ENTIRE PLATE OF JALAPEÑO POPPERS BEFORE BED AGAIN
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

Today's word:
Listless.
Adjective: Lacking a list.
Example: "Sent to the grocery store for a few items, Adam stood listless in the soup aisle trying hard to remember which items he was sent to pick up."
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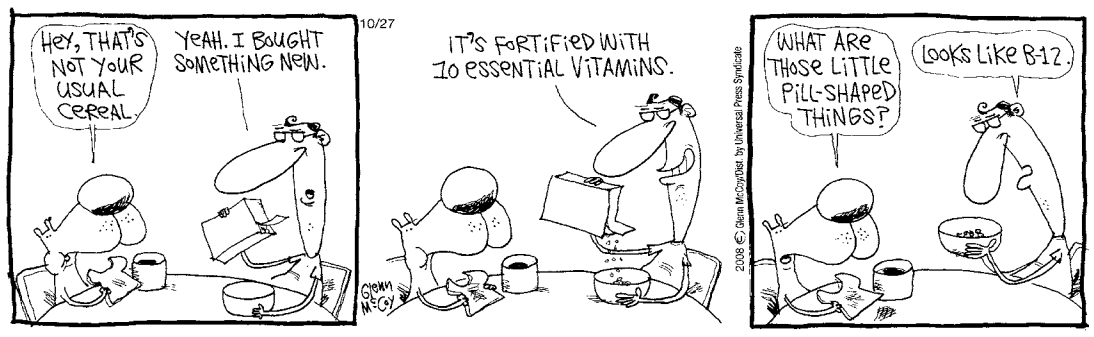
www.CFDCOMICS.COM
BRYAN BASSET
10/27

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HEY, THAT'S NOT YOUR USUAL CEREAL.
YEAH. I BOUGHT SOMETHING NEW.
10/27
IT'S FORTIFIED WITH 10 ESSENTIAL VITAMINS.
WHAT ARE THOSE LITTLE PILL-SHAPED THINGS?
LOOKS LIKE B-12.
2008 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

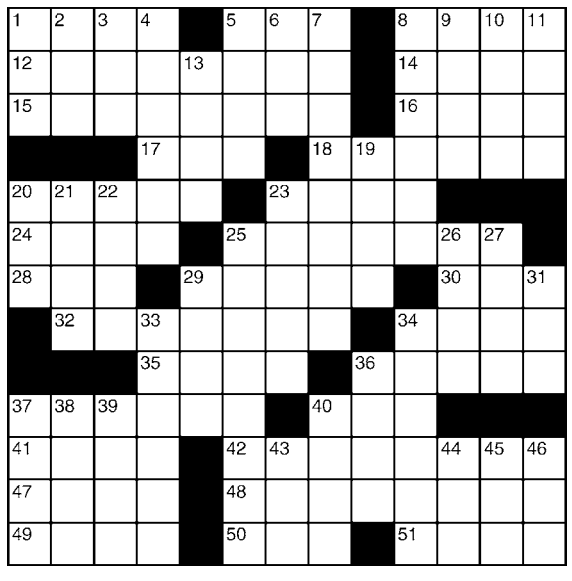
**ACROSS**
1 Split apart
5 Track circuit
8 Taj Mahal city
12 Phone number prefix
14 Reach 212 degrees F.
15 Be sycophantic toward
16 A single time
17 Prompt
18 Semblances
20 Little bird's call
23 Despot
24 Pianist Dame Myra
25 Unknown man
28 A Gershwin
29 "The Old — Bucket"
30 Boxer
32 Fastened a belt
34 Gambling game
35 NC school
36 Serf
37 "Ed Wood" Oscar winner Martin
40 Crib
41 Notion
42 Stop progressing
47 Bellow
48 Cinched
49 Venomous snakes
50 Biblical verb ending
51 Building block name

**DOWN**
1 U.K. fliers
2 Historic period
3 Fresh
4 Trips the light fantastic
5 Adore
6 Lemony quaff
7 Ceased to exist
8 On the ship
9 Talent show prop
10 Wedding shower?
11 Microbrewery output
13 — d'état
19 "Death in Venice" author
20 Actor McBride
21 34-Down, for one
22 Jacob's brother
23 Bus fare, sometimes
25 Louvered window
26 October birthstone
27 37-Down replacer
29 Tex. neighbor
31 Comprehended
33 Lebanese trees
34 Finocchio
36 Lofty
37 Old Italian money
38 Commotions
39 Tide type
40 "Splish Splash" activity
43 Potent stick
44 Mr. Lincoln
45 Playground game
46 Self

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | I | E | V | ■ | M | A | C | E | ■ | M | E | W |
| I | D | L | E | ■ | E | B | O | N | ■ | O | R | E |
| W | E | A | N | ■ | A | L | B | S | ■ | D | O | N |
| I | S | N | T | ■ | D | E | W | ■ | V | E | S | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | I | D | O | ■ | E | Y | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| R | A | N | L | O | W | ■ | B | O | N | N | I | E |
| A | L | I | A | S | ■ | ■ | ■ | U | T | U | R | N |
| T | E | X | T | E | D | ■ | B | R | I | B | E | D |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | D | O | ■ | E | S | L | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| B | E | N | D | ■ | G | A | R | ■ | A | C | M | E |
| O | D | E | ■ | U | G | L | Y | ■ | T | O | A | D |
| A | G | O | ■ | G | I | L | L | ■ | T | A | X | I |
| T | E | N | ■ | H | E | S | S | ■ | E | X | I | T |

**Saturday's answer** 10-27



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Kelly Osbourne, 24; Scott Weiland, 41; Roberto Benigni, 56; John Cleese, 69

**Happy Birthday**: You have a lot riding on your performance this year. Solid, steady progress can be yours if you don't try to fit too much into too short a time. Gauge your every move and present your ideas when least expected to catch everyone off-guard. Work more from home if possible where you can take care of both personal and professional matters without losing time in transit. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 26, 34, 37, 42

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): This could be a day of reconciliation. Focus on making amends or turning a wrong into a right. You will feel better and can make some worthwhile advancements. Speak from the heart. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Too much of anything can be your demise today. Keep things simple both professionally and personally. Be smart, cautious and moderate, giving attention to reform, budgeting and creativity. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): You've got everyone's attention, so what are you waiting for. Get busy making your mark or establishing your position. You have to strike while the iron is hot and today the stars have aligned and they are in your favor. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let your emotions or lack of confidence throw you in the wrong direction or ruin your chances to excel. A problem with a friend, loved one or child may cause some upset but, if you show your strength, you will be the hero. ✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have to be true to yourself today if you want to come out on top. Look for love and you will find it. Go after a deal and you will close it. Think of an idea and you will be able to exploit it. ✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't go overboard for someone else. Concentrate on the jobs, projects or engagements that will get you into a lead position. Open up regarding your ideas but keep your emotions under wraps. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll find it difficult to get past emotional issues, if you don't deal with them quickly and move on. You have too much riding on your performance today to let anyone or anything get to you. You know what must be done, so stop waffling and proceed. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Any revealing of your own doings will ignite the competition. Partner with someone who has just as much to bring to the table as you do. You must, however, have mutual respect. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be caught in someone else's crossfire if you engage in talks that you don't belong in. Concentrate on doing what's best for yourself. Doing something special will lead to greater love. ✪✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put everything you've got into getting ahead. As soon as you take too much time to discuss your plans, you will lose momentum and have to face strong opposition. Stick to what you know will work and you will advance to the finish line. ✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let someone else's aggressive action get to you. Follow your heart and stick to your convictions. This is a new beginning and a chance for you to test your ability to stand on your own. ✪✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A little exaggeration will go a long way for now but be prepared to back up what you said you can and will do. You always work best when the pressure is on. If you believe you can do something, chances are you can. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**Birthday Baby**: You have drive and are engaging and fun to be around. You always express yourself in an interesting manner. You are popular and aggressive.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 2 | | | | 8 |
| | | | 3 | | 8 | 7 | 9 | |
| | | 6 | 9 | 5 | | 4 | 3 | |
| | 6 | 1 | | | 7 | | 4 | |
| 2 | | 3 | | 9 | | 8 | | 7 |
| | 7 | | 4 | | | 5 | 2 | |
| | 9 | 5 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | |
| | 2 | 4 | 1 | | 6 | | | |
| 8 | | | | 4 | | | | |

Difficulty Level ★ 10/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 5 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/25

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**HIGH-TECH TRASH** **Solution: 9 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | S | C | R | P | R | O | C | E | S | S | A | L | G | S |
| L | N | O | T | O | N | S | I | L | G | S | L | E | C | T |
| E | O | V | O | S | T | Y | L | D | E | A | T | E | H | E |
| C | I | A | I | E | G | I | R | I | A | E | B | T | A | G |
| T | S | H | E | R | F | N | N | U | L | R | L | R | Z | D |
| R | I | L | E | D | O | A | I | O | C | E | M | A | A | A |
| O | V | N | N | W | P | N | S | S | M | R | R | E | R | G |
| N | E | A | I | M | D | B | M | N | A | E | E | G | D | E |
| I | L | R | O | R | O | I | S | E | U | C | T | M | L | N |
| C | E | C | I | D | E | W | T | P | N | U | A | A | Y | T |
| S | T | V | H | D | E | T | O | C | T | T | W | R | L | S |
| N | E | A | E | I | U | B | T | R | H | S | A | A | P | C |
| R | M | I | V | R | P | M | R | I | G | E | K | L | P | R |
| U | U | S | E | N | O | H | P | I | L | E | S | S | U | A |
| B | F | A | R | S | E | N | I | C | S | Ⓛ | Ⓘ | Ⓞ | Ⓢ | P |

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Agents, Arsenic, Asia, Burn, Casings, Chip, Clear, Companies, Debris, Ditches, Dump, Electronics, Energy, Environmental, Fume, Gadgets, Garbage, Gear, Glass, Grow, Havoc, Hazard, Lakes, Landfills, Laws, Lead, Litter, Melt, Mercury, Metal, Monitor, Obsolete, Phones, Process, Radio, River, Scrap, Soil, Steel, Supply, Televisions, Tons, Unsafe, Views, Water, Wires

**Last Saturday's Answer: Tremors**

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 or 27 send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p/h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6668. Order online at upuzzles.com. (Contain 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger 20 x 20 size)

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**235-NEWS**

## WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

FORE
TEE
FORE

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**Find today's solution in this section**

## WANTED: I Chief Accountant

Chief Accountant responsible for the oversight of all accounting functions, including inventory, invoicing and accounts receivable, fixed assets, accounts payable, payroll, and cost of production analysis. The successful applicant will also be responsible for the preparation of accurate monthly and annual financial reports. Position calls for extensive knowledge of computerized accounting software and functions. Ability to work as a team player in a fast paced atmosphere is required. Salary commensurate with experience.

**Qualifications**

- CPA designation with a minimum of 5 years manufacturing accounting experience.
- Familiarity with Peachtree Premium accounting software.
- Demonstrated understanding of cost accounting principles.
- Demonstrated understanding of integrated perpetual inventory accounting concepts.
- Demonstrated understanding of computerized payroll accounting systems.
- Ability to prepare monthly work papers to for the purpose of adjusting general ledger for accurate and timely financial statement preparation.
- Demonstrated understanding of MS Excel integrated modeling concepts for the preparation of trend and "what if" analyses.
- Staff management experience.

**Deliverables**

- Assume responsibility of accounting staff consisting of accounts receivable accountant, cost accountant, accounts payable, and inventory accountant, to ensure that work is performed in an accurate and timely manner.
- Assume responsibility for the biweekly processing of payroll.
- Maintain and amortize prepaid expenses.
- Supervise monthly physical inventory count and pricing, ensuring a proper cutoff.
- Prepare monthly work papers to show the correct month-end balances for assets and liabilities, the appropriate accruals and general journal entries.
- Assemble and organize the work papers for review by the Controller.
- Prepare monthly financial statements along with graphical representation of sales and analytical review commentary of significant changes in sales, cost of operations and expenses.

Please submit your resume and other related documents at the accounting office of:

Herman's Modem Bakery, Inc.
Tun Herman Pan Rd., Airport Rd.
Saipan MP 96950

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Saipan Tribune

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
**State Board of Education, Public School System**
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950
***Human Resources Office***

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2008-071** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **TREASURER**
Pay Level/Step: **32/01-12** Per Annum Salary: **$24,889.35-$42,558.00**
Opening Date: **October 7, 2008** Closing Date: **October 29, 2008**
Location: **PSS – FISCAL & BUDGET OFFICE**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
**Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or related areas, plus at least five (5) years progressive experience in banking or accounting**

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX0 MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

# CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

*Saipan Tribune's* Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

| ADS (7DAYS) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | $25 |
| • 5-Liner | $35 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | $45 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $55 |

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE

### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

## CANCELLATION

### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

## CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# Phils beat Rays, take to 2-1 lead

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—First it was wet, then it got wild for the Philadelphia Phillies.

Carlos Ruiz finished off a madcap ninth inning with an infield single with the bases loaded, and the Phillies outlasted the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 early Sunday in Game 3 of the World Series for a 2-1 lead.

This was midnight madness and then some on a rainy night that pushed the start to 10:06 p.m. and it wrapped up at 1:47 a.m. Ruiz, Chase Utley and Ryan Howard homered for the Phils, but it took three kooky plays to win it on a bases-loaded trickler with no outs.

It all came down to this: Rays reliever J.P. Howell hit Eric Bruntlett with a pitch to start the ninth. Enter Grant Balfour, who threw a wild pitch that caromed off the backstop to catcher Dioner Navarro, whose throw trying to get Bruntlett skipped into center field.

With Bruntlett on third, the Rays issued two intentional walks and brought in right fielder Ben Zobrist for a five-man infield. Ruiz followed with a nubber down the line and third baseman Evan Longoria charged. He dived for the ball, and rushed an underhanded flip home that sailed over Navarro's head.

The single was just the Phils' second hit in 33 chances with runners in scoring position this Series.

The Phillies rushed from the dugout to congratulate Bruntlett at the plate and Ruiz at first base. The giant Liberty Bell in center field clanged in celebration - no cowbells here at Citizens Bank Park.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Jamie Moyer pitches to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of Game 3 of the baseball World Series in Philadelphia, Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008.

Game 4 is Sunday night and the weather forecast is fine for the matchup between the Phils' Joe Blanton and Andy Sonnanstine.

A 91-minute rain delay resulted in the latest start time in Series history, and most everyone in the sellout crowd was still at the park and standing when Philadelphia won.

The Phillies built a 4-1 lead for Jamie Moyer on an early home run by Ruiz and consecutive shots by Utley and Howard in the sixth. But it was the little hit that was the biggest of all.

J.C. Romero wound up with the win.

Minus Moyer, the Rays sped back to tie as B.J. Upton became the first AL player to steal three bases in a Series game.

Upton beat out an infield single to open the eighth, swiped second and third on consecutive pitches, and dashed home on a wild throw by Ruiz to make it 4-all.

Tampa Bay's rally dampened the moment Moyer waited for his whole life. The 45-year-old lefty finally got to pitch in the World Series and threw a game that defines his career, bedeviling the Rays with his slo-mo repertoire.

Moyer, already a pro before Rays stars Evan Longoria and Upton were born, demonstrated exactly how he's earned 246 major league victories. He struck out both All-Stars with 74 mph changeups, and made the entire lineup look foolish with tentative swings.

Moyer became the second-oldest player in Series history—Jack Quinn was 47 when he pitched for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1930—yet showed he was still spry. He belly-flopped along the first-base line to field Carl Crawford's bunt, and flipped the ball with his glove.

And while millions of people may have switched the TV channel to watch "Saturday Night Live" open with one of their popular political skits, surely baseball fans all over were laughing at watching Moyer pitch a game for the aged.

Hit hard in two losses in the NL playoffs, Moyer left in the seventh with a 4-2 lead after an RBI grounder by Gabe Gross. He tipped his cap toward plate umpire Fieldin Culbreth and then to the crowd that gave him a rousing standing ovation.

Chad Durbin relieved and gave up Jason Bartlett's RBI grounder that pulled the Rays within a run.

Steady rain and gusty wind threatened to postpone the first Series game at Citizens Bank Park. Fans huddled underneath the overhangs and crowded the concourses to watch No. 3 Penn State play No. 10 Ohio State.

Ruiz hit a solo home run in the second off Matt Garza that put the Phillies ahead 2-1.

Utley led off the sixth with his second home run of the Series and the slumping Howard followed with a drive into the right-field seats.

Garza, who beat Boston in Game 7 to win the MVP award of the ALCS, never seemed comfortable and kept fidgeting with the rubber.

Jimmy Rollins got his first hit of the Series, leading off the first with a single. He later scored on Utley's groundout.

Crawford doubled off the sliding Pat Burrell's glove in left field in the second and scored on Gross' sacrifice fly.

# Police chief rebukes Thomas for involving daughter

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A suburban police chief likened the conflicting accounts of an accidental overdose at Isiah Thomas' home to a "cover-up" and rebuked the former New York Knicks coach Saturday for saying it was his teenage daughter who required treatment.

"It wasn't his daughter," Harrison Police Chief David Hall told The Associated Press. "And why they're throwing her under the bus is beyond my ability to understand."

Authorities were called early Friday to Thomas' Westchester County home, where police said a 47-year-old man was taken to the hospital and treated for an overdose of sleeping pills. Several media outlets reported that police confirmed it was Thomas who went to the hospital.

But reached on his cell phone Friday, the 47-year-old NBA great told the New York Post he had not been treated for a sleeping pill overdose, and that it was 17-year-old daughter Lauren who had a medical issue.

It "wasn't an overdose," he told the newspaper. "My daughter is very down right now. None of us are OK."

Hall forcefully refuted Thomas' statement.

"My cops ... know the difference between a 47-year-old black male and a young black female," Hall said.

"These people should learn something from Richard Nixon—it's not the crime, it's the cover-up," he added.

Voice mails and text messages from the AP were left on Thomas' cell phone Saturday. Messages left earlier with Thomas' publicist and two of his attorneys were not returned.

Thomas' 20-year-old son, Joshua, lashed out at Hall's comments.

"Saying that someone is being thrown under the bus when you are talking about health issues is disrespectful," the Indiana University student wrote in a text to the New York Daily News.

"I love both my sister and dad and am glad that both are doing well," he told the newspaper. "Thanks for all the support, but as a family we are fine and stronger than ever."

On Friday, he also said it was his sister, not his father, who required treatment.

No suicide note was found, and police were classifying the case as an "accidental drug overdose" on "a number" of prescription sleeping pills, Hall said.

Hall would not confirm the identity of the hospitalized man.

The developments, days before the start of another season, are the latest drama in what has been a difficult year for Thomas.

He was fired as the Knicks' coach April 18 after a season of dreadful basketball, a tawdry sexual harassment lawsuit and unending chants from fans demanding his dismissal. Still, he was retained by the organization as an adviser and consultant.

"Isiah Thomas spoke with members of the New York Knicks organization and is OK," the Knicks said in a statement. "He is dealing with a family matter, and we will have no further comment. He has asked that we respect his privacy, and we will."

An ambulance and two police officers responded to a 911 call that came in from the Thomas home a couple minutes after midnight, Hall said. The victim was taken about 5 miles from the home to White Plains Hospital Center, where officials declined to identify the overdose patient.

Thomas' house is on a luxury cul de sac of multimillion-dollar homes, about 30 miles from midtown Manhattan.

As a player, Thomas won NBA titles with the Detroit Pistons in 1989 and 1990 and an NCAA championship with Indiana in 1981. He joined the Knicks as the team president in 2003 and became coach in June 2006 after Larry Brown was fired.

Last season, Thomas drew the wrath of fans, who serenaded him nightly with chants of "Fire Isiah!" When he was dismissed, his record in New York was 56-108. Overall, he is 187-223 as an NBA coach, leading the Indiana Pacers to the playoffs in three straight years from 2000-03.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Trail Blazers exercise options on Oden, 3 others

**PORTLAND, Ore.** (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers exercised fourth-year options Saturday on the contracts of forward LaMarcus Aldridge and guards Sergio Rodriguez and Brandon Roy. The Blazers also said exercised their third-year option on center Greg Oden, who missed last season following microfracture surgery on his right knee after being selected No. 1 overall in the NBA draft. The moves, announced by general manager Kevin Pritchard, keep all four players under contract through the 2009-10 season. The Trail Blazers acquired Aldridge, Rodriguez and Roy in 2006 draft-day trades.

### Bulls star Rose injures hip in preseason game

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Derrick Rose, the former Memphis star selected first overall in the NBA draft, left the Chicago Bulls' exhibition finale against Milwaukee because of a hip injury Friday night. Rose sustained a right hip flexor injury midway through the first quarter. He left the United Center court and did not return to action. The guard was on the bench in the second half, but further reports on the extent of his injury were not immediately available. The Bulls' No. 2 leading scorer in seven exhibition games with a 14.9 average, Rose started his sixth game for Chicago and scored seven points before leaving with 6:41 left in the first quarter. Guard Kirk Hinrich replaced Rose and scored 11 points through the balance of the quarter as Chicago jumped to a 35-16 lead. Three other Chicago players were out with injuries Friday, including leading scorer Ben Gordon (jammed left big toe), guard Larry Hughes (dislocated shoulder) and forward Luol Deng (sore right toe). Forward Tyrus Thomas (sore right ankle) played Friday. The Bulls and Bucks will meet again Tuesday night at the United Center in the regular-season opener.

# Woodson's toughness, smarts key to Packers' start

**GREEN BAY, Wis.** (AP)—Green Bay Packers cornerback Charles Woodson is keeping his plans pretty simple during this week's bye: A trip to his home in Atlanta for some rest and relaxation.

"Kick my feet up—literally," Woodson said.

He has earned it. Woodson has been playing with a broken right toe for most of the season, an injury that has kept the former Heisman Trophy winner away from practice for weeks, but hasn't kept him off the field on game day.

But missing practice and, until recently, playing through significant pain with a bulky wrap on his foot hasn't stopped the 32-year-old Woodson from laying the foundation for what could end up being a Pro Bowl season.

Consistent contributions from Woodson and another guy who's proving himself to be surprisingly tough, first-year starting quarterback Aaron Rodgers, are two major reasons the injury-riddled Packers go into the bye at 4-3 and tied for the NFC North lead.

The bye gives Rodgers, Woodson and other banged-up players a chance to rest, and should allow injured players such as cornerback Al Harris and safety Atari Bigby to get healthy enough to play again—increasing the chances the Packers' first post-Brett Favre season could end in another playoff run.

Woodson said his toe has healed to the point that it isn't an issue.

"This last Sunday, I didn't even tape it up and played," Woodson said. "I still cut a hole in the side of my shoe to give it some room. But other than that, I'm out there pretty much playing mostly free with the toe, so it's been good."

Indeed it has.

Woodson has four interceptions in seven games, tying him for the league lead with three other players, including one of his teammates, safety Nick Collins. Woodson's performance has gone a long way toward helping the Packers rebound from a rough stretch.

The defense hit a lull with Harris and Bigby on the sideline as the Packers allowed 27-plus points in three straight losses. But Green Bay rebounded to win two in a row going into the bye, including an impressive effort against Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts last Sunday.

Woodson might have delivered his most complete performance against the Colts. He spent much of the afternoon matched with receiver Reggie Wayne—Woodson matches up with the slot receiver in the Packers' nickel package—and Wayne finished the game with two catches for 24 yards.

"His performance level has been so high, and he's consistently kept it up there," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "He's been able to fight through the injury and do it with hardly any practice. I thought that he was as dialed in (Sunday) as I've seen him."

Like Rodgers, who has played—and played well—in three straight games despite a sprained right shoulder, Woodson is proving something about his ability to play through pain and prepare without practicing.

"He's showed everyone that he's one hell of a football player," Packers cornerbacks coach Lionel Washington said. "I think a guy, to do what he has done over the past month or so, without practicing at all, going out and performing at a high level week in and week out is a tremendous job."

Woodson doesn't want to be singled out for credit.

"This has been fun," Woodson said. "Especially going out there and being able to play the game without practicing. I get a little winded at times because I'm not able to run the way I want to. Hopefully that'll change in the next couple weeks. But I'm playing well, and (it's) not just myself. Especially the last couple weeks, the defense as a whole has really stepped up to the challenge. I'm just trying to do my part."

Woodson makes up for some of what he's missing in practice with film study. The rest comes through something you can't teach: The guy just gets it.

Washington called Woodson "sharp."

"The thing he does better than anybody I've ever been around, he believes what he sees," Washington said. "Anytime you believe what you see, you're going to have a chance to make a play."

The recent raves of Packers coaches stand in stark contrast to Woodson's reputation as something of a malcontent coming out of Oakland as a free agent after the 2005 season.

Woodson wasn't particularly interested in signing with the Packers, but they were the only team seriously interested in him. And when he first got to Green Bay, he butted heads with his coaches, joking last season that he was fined for "everything" early on.

Today, Woodson has realized that life in Green Bay isn't so bad. And he is developing a reputation as a hard worker and positive influence in the locker room.

Coaches say they came in with no preconceived notions about Woodson, and haven't been disappointed with the player they've come to know.

"As a former player myself, I never doubt a football player or doubt when someone says, 'He's not a hard worker,'" Washington said. "I want to see it for myself. Because you never know what the circumstance or the situation was for him, and you never know what a player's going through at the time. You don't become an All-Pro football player by being a lazy football player. He's proven that since he's been here."

Green Bay Packers cornerback Charles Woodson in action in this file photo.

## Cleveland Browns rescind Winslow's suspension

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—The Browns have agreed to rescind Kellen Winslow's one-game suspension, but the Pro Bowl tight end will still miss Cleveland's game on Sunday.

The team said in a statement Saturday night that Winslow will return on Monday, following the Browns' game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The franchise said it has worked through its differences with Winslow and looks forward to his return.

Winslow was suspended last week after he made critical comments about the Browns' handling of his hospitalization with a staph infection. He later appealed the suspension.

## Pats deny report they're upset with Brady choice

**BOSTON** (AP)—The New England Patriots denied a report Thursday that they were upset with quarterback Tom Brady for opting against the team's preferred doctors and undergoing surgery on the West Coast.

After published reports said Brady needed two more operations to clean out an infection in his knee, ESPN.com, citing a source it did not identify, reported that "the Patriots, as an organization, are upset with the situation because they were clear that they wanted Brady's surgery done under the direction of doctors of their choosing in Boston."

Later Thursday, the Patriots issued a statement affirming their support for the quarterback who led them to three Super Bowl titles.

"This unsubstantiated report does not represent the team's views whatsoever," the statement said. "We have supported Tom Brady one hundred percent from day one of this process and will continue to do so. ... Today, we reiterate our total support for Tom as he recovers from his injury."

Brady was injured in the first quarter of the season opener on a hit by Kansas City Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard. He has been widely reported to have torn an anterior cruciate ligament, but he and the team have not given specifics on the injury or commented on his recovery.

Brady confirmed on his Web site Saturday that he has had two operations on the knee.

The Boston Herald reported Thursday that Brady has undergone two more procedures since then to try to fight an infection. The paper said Brady is on a six-week course of intravenous antibiotics and will continue to have follow-up exams at the clinic in Los Angeles where he had surgery.

# Sutherland leads Frys.com Open

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Kevin Sutherland shot a 7-under 63 on Saturday to take a one-stroke lead over George McNeill after the third round of the Frys.com Open, the fifth of the PGA Tour's seven Fall Series events.

The 44-year Sutherland had a 14-under 196 total on Grayhawk's Raptor Course. McNeill followed his second-round 63 with a 66.

"I've played terrific all year," said Sutherland, who won the 2002 Accenture Match Play Championship for his lone PGA Tour title. "This is my last tournament of the year, so it'd be great to cap it off with a win."

Thirty-second on the money list with just over $2 million, Sutherland had seven birdies in his bogey-free round.

"I came here just to play and have fun and I plan to do that)," said Sutherland, a playoff loser this year in The Barclays.

The 29-year-old McNeill won a Fall Series event last year in Las Vegas for his lone tour title.

"I've always played pretty well towards the end of the year," McNeill said.

Paul Goydos (66), John Mallinger (66) and Steve Allan (68) were 12 under, Cameron Beckman (64) and Woody Austin (65) were another stroke back and 49-year-old Bob Tway (64), Mathew Goggin (68) and second-round leader Arron Oberholser (71) were 10 under.

Beckman is winless since the 2001 Southern Farm Bureau Classic.

"I got off to a pretty good start," Beckman said. "All week long I've been hitting a lot of greens. Played real solid all day. Tway hasn't won since 2003. He eagled the 10th hole, but double-bogeyed the 16th.

"I had a chance to shoot really low today. I holed it at 10 to go 6 under. I had a few more pretty respectable birdie chances the next few holes and didn't make them."

Oberholser had a one-stroke lead over Allan coming into the third round. He bogeyed the 11th hole and double-bogeyed the 12th.

Defending champion Mike Weir (69) was 7 under.

# Barakos make it two in a row after 0-3 start

**GINGOOG CITY, Misamis Oriental**—Gabby Espinas played his biggest game so far in a Red Bull uniform, helping the Barakos pull the rug from under powerhouse and former team San Miguel Beer team in a KFC PBA Philippine Cup road showcase at the Arturo S. Lugod gym here.

Espinas, the former NCAA Rookie-MVP awardee who was selected fifth overall by the Beermen in the 2006 PBA Draft, tossed in 16 points and came through with two crucial plays down the stretch as the Barakos stunned SMB, 114-113, after breaking into the win-column with a 100-94 decision over the Barangay Ginebra Kings at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday.

Red Bull, which swept San Miguel Beer in a best-of-three quarterfinal in last season's tourney, also drew solid games from Cyrus Baguio, Celino Cruz and Leo Najorda as they scored back-to-back victories following a 0-3 start in the all-Filipino tourney.

The Barakos caught up with the Air21 Express at seventh place while relegating the Beermen (4-2) back to second place behind the Alaska Milk Aces (4-1).

Najorda scored 10 of his 14 points in the last quarter while Cruz, Baguio and Espinas combined for four lethal charities in the last 20 seconds.

Up against his former team which traded him to Air21 last season before being acquired by Red Bull a few months ago, Espinas stood tall at crunch time, getting a big steal, nailing a free throw and grabbing a defensive rebound, all inside the last 20 seconds.

The whole Red Bull team put up a surprise performance together dominating the highly-fancied Beermen in the last three quarters of play.

San Miguel Beer, which has now lost its last five outings in the Philippine Cup against Red Bull, actually pulled abreast at 110-all on an eight-to-nothing run but the Barakos stayed unfazed and leaned on crucial free throws by Cruz, Baguio and Espinas to preserve the win.

A defensive stop by Espinas on Jay Washington set up Baguio for his two free throws, giving Red Bull a 113-110 lead with time down to 14.1 seconds.

San Miguel eventually yielded the game as Lordy Tugade misfired a three-point try from the right flank then Espinas grabbed the defensive rebound.

After Espinas split his charities off a quick San Miguel foul, Dondon Hontiveros banged in a three-pointer for the final tally.

The Beermen took the initiative at the start but the Barakos hit their strides in the second quarter, rallying from a 23-33 deficit to seize a 61-58 lead at the half.

The Barakos stretched the margin to 90-82 at the end of the third and showed tremendous poise in fending off the Beermen's chase at endgame.

Baguio totaled 17 points as he led six Red Bull players who scored in double figures. Hontiveros paced the Beermen with 19.

**Red Bull 114 –** Baguio 17, Espinas 16, Cruz 15, Sharma 14, Najorda 14, Rodriguez 11, Hubalde 10, Hrabak 6, Chan 6, Alvarez 3, Duncil 2.

**San Miguel 113 –** Hontiveros 21, Washington 16, Tugade 15, Custodio 15, Villanueva 13, Pena 12, Racela 10, Bono 6, Gonzales 4, Calaguio 1.

**Quarterscores:** 23-33, 61-58, 90-82, 114-113. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

# Talk 'N Text hands pacesetter Alaska's first defeat

**ANTIPOLO CITY, Philippines**— Because of its offensive firepower, people sometimes tend to overlook Talk 'N Text's defense.

Friday night, the Tropang Texters made sure everyone noticed their improvement on the defensive end as they downed the erstwhile unbeaten Alaska Aces with a 91-83 win and grab a share of the lead with their victims in the KFC-PBA Philippine Cup at the Ynares Sports Center here.

Mark Cardona scored 24 points to lead a balanced attack by TNT, while rookie Jared Dillinger added 18 points, nine coming in the final frame, with eight rebounds and two assists.

But it was the Tropang Texters' defense that made the difference, as they shut down the Aces' offense to just a 33-of-84 or 39.3 percent shooting from the field.

On offense, TNT was as usual deadly, converting 35-of-75 or 46.7 percent of its attempts from the field.

"We came into these game aiming for a win in these tough three game stretch, first against Sta. Lucia Realty, then San Miguel Beer and now Alaska," Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes said. "We wanted to get the 'W', we're glad that we got it."

"We're a team not known for our defense, because minsan lang we concentrate too much on our offense, nawawala 'yung defense namin. But we have to balance it. While we're concentrating on playing tough defense, we have to retain that offensive arsenal," Reyes added.

The win not only pulled Talk 'N Text abreast of Alaska atop the team standings with their identical 4-1 win-loss cards, it also enabled the Tropang Texters to bounce back from back-to-back defeats to the defending champion Realtors (96-117) and the Beermen (77-84).

Ali Peek, a 10-year veteran, played his first game after being sidelined in the first four games due to calf muscle injury.

The 6-foot-4 Peek had 16 points and seven rebounds, while giving TNT that intimidating presence on the defensive end. He also held Alaska's Sonny Thoss to just four points.

"(Peek's) presence underscores the team's defense, which I think was the key to this win," Reyes said.

Holding a five-point lead, 74-69, Talk 'N Text scored four straight points—a split free throw by Cardona and a three-pointer by Dillinger—that gave them a 78-69 lead with 7:36 left in the game.

After Dillinger's triple, Alaska head coach Tim Cone charged towards referee Nestor Sambrano at mid-court, contesting what he felt was a non-call on TNT rookie Jason Castro against the driving LA Tenorio.

Lead referee Throngy Aldaba gave Cone two technical that led to his outright ejection at the 7:35 mark of the fourth quarter. Cardona made 1-of-2 free throws as result of the two Ts.

**Talk 'N Text 91 –** Cardona 24, Dillinger 18, Peek 16, Ritualo 10, Castro 8, Alapag 6, Carey 4, Aljamal 3, De Ocampo 2, Reyes 0, Allado 0.

**Alaska 83 –** Miller 29, De Vance 16, Tenorio 10, Hugnatan 8, Cariaso 8, Ferriols 6, Thoss 4, Dela Cruz 2, Fonacier 0, Sotto 0.

**Quarterscores:** 22-19; 40-36; 67-59: 91-83. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

## TWIN

*From Page 28*

ing 83-113 loss against the league-leading MIGS.

It also improved to a 2-1 record after cruising to a 90-76 triumph over the slumping San Miguel Light, which absorbed its third straight loss in as many games.

A few minutes after their close win against C&R, Diamond players were still catching their collective breaths and were off to a sluggish start. Garcia had only three players scoring in the first period, which ended with the fresh San Miguel ahead by three, 16-13.

Forwards Junar Guiab and Darwin Barbo then lead Diamond's uprising in the second period combining for 15 of their 28 points to put their team in the lead at halftime, 44-37.

Diamond took the lead in the first half surviving Leo Itaas' 16-point output in the first 20 minutes of the game. San Miguel Light failed to sustain its momentum in the second period, as its offensive set was concentrated on Itaas.

In the second half, other San Miguel Light players stepped up, but it was Itaas' turn to cool down, scoring only seven points in the last two quarters. He had only five points in the third period, and was held to a two markers in the fourth.

Diamond kept the lead and the win in the second half drawing contributions from every player fielded in the game.

At the end of the match, Diamond had six players finishing in double figures in scoring.

Delos Reyes had 16 points and collared 12 boards. Guiab also had a double-double, firing 16 markers and grabbing 10 rebounds. Esdrelon nearly had a triple-double, scoring 14 points, recording eight rebounds and eight assists.

Darwin Barbo chipped in 13, while Brendo Talania and Ed Cosino contributed 11 and 10 markers, respectively.

Itaas still paced San Miguel Light with 23 points, Glen Maglaya added 12, and Jerome Reyes drilled 10.

C&R and Century Insurance played in the third game of the night, but the match was suspended due to rain with the game tied at 61-all at the end of the third period.

C&R led by 14 at halftime, 44-30, but Century Insurance recovered in the third period behind Wowee Abuel and Bing Marasigan's 3-point shooting, and even took the lead after Larry Palero's 3-point play, 61-59, with less than a minute left in that canto.

C&R was limited to six points in the first seven minutes of the third quarter to lose control of the match.

The continuation of the game has yet to be announced.

### First Game

**Diamond Auto Care 94** – Ranola 18, D. Barbo 17, Delos Reyes 15, Esdrelon 11, Aquino 11, Guiab 10, Talania 6, Cosino 4, Bicera 2.

**C&R/NRG 89** – Cruz 21, Estolas 16, Camacho 14, Peredo 13, Vilacrusis 12, Capalad 6, Villarin 4, Chan 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 24-32, 55-54, 71-79, 94-89.

### Second Game

**Diamond Auto Care 90** – Guiab 16, Delos Reyes 16, Esdrelon 14, D. Barbo 13, Talania 11, Cosino 10, Tamondong 3, Fernandez 3, G. Barbo 3.

**San Miguel Light 76** – Itaas 23, Maglaya 13, Reyes 10, Ritual 9, Buniag 8, Sarmiento 4, Geli 4, Abenoja , Lauron 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-16, 44-37, 72-58, 90-76.

## ISAIAH

*From Page 28*

Ezekiel's defense in the second half, adding 18 points. Wabinga slowed down a bit, making only eight, but Dindo Pablo, who was scoreless in the first half, was on target from downtown hitting three triples. Pablo finished with 11 markers, while Wabinga had 25 to help Isaiah posted an easy victory.

Capalad and Topacio remained at the forefront of Ezekiel's offense, drilling 14 and 12 markers, respectively, in the second half, but they lacked support from their teammates. Only Capalad and Topacio made more than three field goals for Ezekiel in the second half.

Capalad led Ezekiel's losing cause, tallying 23 points, while Topacio chipped in 21.

The win put Isaiah in the early lead in the four-team league.

Daniel is in second place, following its 94-77 debut win over defending champion Jeremiah on Friday.

The league will have a three-round robin format in the regular season with the top two teams advancing to the championship match in December.

**Isaiah 80** – Pantaleon 31, Wabinga 25, Pablo 11, Dayrit 10, Gelua 3.

**Ezekiel 68** – Capalad 23, Topacio 21, Evangelista 8, Valencia 4, Galvan 4, Ramos 3, Perez 3, Chavez 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 37-25, 80-68.

## EARLY

*From Page 28*

bench who will try to help the team pull off an upset over the defending champions.

The Junior Nationals and the Sonics will duel at 5:30pm, while the Sixers will take on the Chalan Kanoa Saints at 7pm in the second game of the night.

Tomorrow, the Rollers I will meet the Suns, while the G-Stars will battle the Kontenders on Wednesday.

Winners of the four pairings

## SAIPAN

*From Page 28*

cruising from Matapang Beach Park to Hagatna Boat Basin and then to Two Lovers Point.

The annual tournament had competitions in women's, men's and mixed divisions.

Guam's AT Metgot swept the women's division races, timing in at 1:35.16 in the long distance finals, 6:01.54 in the 1,000m sprint, and 2:54.67 in the 500m sprint. AT Metgot's mixed team also won in the 1,000m sprint, clocking in at 5:53.39 and beating Hong Kong IPC (6:02.34).

Hong Kong IPC1 ruled the mixed 500m sprint timing in at 2:46.05. Placing second was AT Metgot (:47.46), followed by Haggan Flyers (2:53.73), At Fote (2:55.55), and Hong Kong IPC2 (2:59.32).

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### FRYS.COM OPEN SCORES

**SCOTTSDALE, Arizona** (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Frys.com Open, a $5 million (4 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event on 7,125-yard, par-70 Raptor Course at Grayhawk Golf Club

**THIRD ROUND**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kevin Sutherland | 67-66-63 | 196 |
| George McNeill | 68-63-66 | 197 |
| Paul Goydos | 70-62-66 | 198 |
| John Mallinger | 63-69-66 | 198 |
| Steve Allan | 67-63-68 | 198 |
| Cameron Beckman | 69-66-64 | 199 |
| Woody Austin | 69-65-65 | 199 |
| Bob Tway | 69-67-64 | 200 |
| Mathew Goggin | 69-63-68 | 200 |
| Arron Oberholser | 65-64-71 | 200 |
| Y.E. Yang | 66-71-64 | 201 |
| Chad Collins | 67-68-66 | 201 |
| Billy Mayfair | 69-64-68 | 201 |
| Steve Elkington | 66-67-68 | 201 |
| Brad Elder | 68-63-70 | 201 |
| Tommy Gainey | 68-68-66 | 202 |
| Nick Watney | 69-67-66 | 202 |
| Todd Hamilton | 69-69-64 | 202 |
| Kevin Streelman | 68-67-67 | 202 |
| Brenden Pappas | 69-69-64 | 202 |
| Bill Haas | 66-68-68 | 202 |
| J.J. Henry | 65-69-68 | 202 |
| Sean O'Hair | 68-65-69 | 202 |
| Chris Stroud | 65-71-67 | 203 |
| Aaron Baddeley | 67-70-66 | 203 |
| Davis Love III | 69-67-67 | 203 |
| Rocco Mediate | 68-69-66 | 203 |
| Omar Uresti | 67-70-66 | 203 |
| Michael Sim | 72-63-68 | 203 |
| Rod Pampling | 70-68-65 | 203 |
| Michael Letzig | 69-66-68 | 203 |
| Peter Lonard | 69-70-64 | 203 |
| Mike Weir | 66-68-69 | 203 |
| Robert Garrigus | 66-66-71 | 203 |
| Patrick Sheehan | 72-64-68 | 204 |
| Pat Perez | 71-66-67 | 204 |
| John Riegger | 70-68-66 | 204 |
| Doug LaBelle II | 63-72-69 | 204 |
| Charley Hoffman | 70-65-69 | 204 |
| Jeff Quinney | 68-71-65 | 204 |
| John Douma | 70-69-65 | 204 |
| Steve Lowery | 72-64-69 | 205 |
| Tom Pernice, Jr. | 67-70-68 | 205 |
| Marco Dawson | 65-71-69 | 205 |
| Robert Gamez | 67-69-69 | 205 |
| Jonathan Byrd | 71-67-67 | 205 |
| Charlie Wi | 68-70-67 | 205 |
| Mark Hensby | 69-66-70 | 205 |
| Bubba Watson | 69-66-70 | 205 |
| Tim Clark | 70-64-71 | 205 |
| Olin Browne | 68-71-66 | 205 |
| Mathias Gronberg | 65-68-72 | 205 |
| Bob Estes | 71-68-66 | 205 |
| Frank Lickliter II | 69-67-70 | 206 |
| Brian Davis | 72-63-71 | 206 |
| Brett Quigley | 71-67-68 | 206 |
| Todd Demsey | 65-69-72 | 206 |
| Scott Verplank | 69-70-67 | 206 |
| John Merrick | 74-65-67 | 206 |
| Steve Flesch | 69-70-67 | 206 |
| Martin Laird | 73-66-67 | 206 |
| Richard Johnson | 64-71-72 | 207 |
| Nick Flanagan | 71-67-69 | 207 |
| James Driscoll | 70-69-68 | 207 |
| Chris Riley | 67-67-73 | 207 |
| Rory Sabbatini | 72-67-68 | 207 |
| Tim Herron | 72-65-71 | 208 |
| Jim McGovern | 67-70-71 | 208 |
| Shane Bertsch | 69-69-70 | 208 |
| Ryan Palmer | 73-66-69 | 208 |
| Eric Axley | 73-66-69 | 208 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# The Week in Sports

# CNMI athletes go the extra mile

Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong in the 100m backstroke event. DAN KIMBALL

DAN KIMBALL

SSC's Keanna Villagomez competes in the 50m butterfly swim during the SSC-Tsunami Saipan Dual Meet.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI's passion for sports was evident last week as athletes and officials were willing to go for an extra mile, literary and figuratively, to participate in tournaments.

Two events were held far north of the island, but swimmers and runners did not mind waking up early and spending a few gallons of gas to compete in the 8th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run and the Saipan Swim Club-Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan Dual Meet.

The SIS fun run drew 138 runners, who raced from and to Banzai Cliff.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, and Mieko Carey topped the men's and women's divisions, clocking in at 19:16 and 21:23, respectively.

Angelo Jones and Cole Chambers won their age group divisions with the former ruling the boys' 13-and-under division after timing in at 24:03, and the latter prevailing in the 7-and-under age group following his 18:21 finish in the 1-kilometer kids race.

In the women's 13-and-under competition, Gabrielle Race was the first to reach Banzai Cliff with a time of 37:30.

After the early morning race, action shifted to the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi with SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers posting records.

SSC had six of its 14 swimmers recording personal best times in the dual meet. The list include sisters Abigail and Emma Martinsen, Bryce Daly, Junior Pamaran, Lester Lapuz, and Rena Son.

Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong broke the CNMI National Record in the 50m breaststroke swim, while teammates Kai Staal and Kensuke Kimura shattered age groups marks.

Wong timed in at 33.39 seconds in the 50m breaststroke, breaking his own mark of 33.88 seconds which he posted on Feb. 1, 2008.

Staal set records in the 200m freestyle (2:07.16) and 50m freestyle (26.18 seconds) in the boys' 13 to 14 age group, while Kimura made a new mark in the 800m freestyle (10:23.35).

Still far up north at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, veteran par-buster Jess Wabol earned his third straight win in two months, topping the Inaugural 2008 Off the Beaten Path Golf Tournament. Prior to the OBP tournament, Wabol had also won the 3rd Annual Kristo Rai Parish Golf Tournament and the 13th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic last month.

Wabol and the rest of the field still trooped to the Kagman facility despite the intermittent rain and supported the fundraiser.

Officials from the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association traveled more than a thousand miles to hear the good news and on Friday announced CNMI's full membership to the East Asian Football Federation.

The Commonwealth's application for full membership was approved during EAFF's 4th Congress in Tokyo, Japan.

NMIFA president and EAFF executive committee member Jerry Tan and NMIFA vice president Sue Knecht attended the meeting.

In another good news, a total of 15 sports will be offered in the 2010 Palau Micronesian Games, including possible gold-medal rich events for the CNMI like baseball, tennis, swimming, and triathlon.

Aside from baseball, tennis, swimming, and triathlon, other sports that the 2010 Palau Micronesian Games Organizing Committee intends to put in the calendar in 2010 are athletics, basketball, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spearfishing, fast-pitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach and indoor volleyball, and wrestling.

Back to local events, two more leagues opened last week.

The 2008-2009 MISO Junior Varsity Basketball League opened Wednesday with Marianas High School downing Kagman High School at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, 62-59.

Gregorio T. Camacho and Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star debuted in the Inaugural 2008 NMIFA Interscholastic Football League with GTC girls' team beating WPS/BS, 1-0. Whispering Palms recovered in the boys' division, prevailing, 2-1.

In softball, DCEPT 6 topped the 2008 Customs Goodwill Fundraising Softball Tournament beating Faja in the finals at the Capital Hill Ballfield, while Sakudi defeated the Hitters, 13-4, in the opening game of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association League women's finals at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

In bowling, Lito Teodoro knocked down 300 pins in his first two games en route to winning Saipan Bowling Association's Rumble 7-8-9 Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Taking full advantage of the format, which scored strikes for pinfalls of more than seven in the first game, eight in the second, and nine in the third and final game, Teodoro posted an eye-popping total of 865 to rule the tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 138 individuals took part in the 8th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run held last Saturday in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MHS's Nino Feria, center, is defended by two KHS players during the opening game in the junior varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Off the Beaten Path members and officials pose for a group photo after hosting the tournament won by Jess Wabol at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star coach Brenda Schultz gives instructions to her players before the start of their game against Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in the U12 football league at the GTC Field last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Raul Dumapit had the most "perfect games" in Saipan Bowling Association's Rumble 7-8-9 Bowling Tournament held last Oct. 19 at the Saipan Bowling Center.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DCEPT 6's Elias Rangamar delivers a pitch during their title game against Faja in the 2008 Customs Goodwill Fundraising Softball Tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

**CNMI athletes go the extra mile**

CNMI's passion for sports was evident last week as athletes and officials were willing to go for an extra mile, literary and figuratively, to participate in tournaments.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Phils beat Rays, take to 2-1 lead**

First it was wet, then it got wild for the Philadelphia Phillies. Carlos Ruiz finished off a madcap ninth inning with an infield single with the bases loaded, and the Phillies outlasted the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 early Sunday in Game 3 of the World Series.

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# Twin wins for Diamond in San Miguel caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Diamond Auto Care recorded back-to-back wins in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

Diamond first played against C&R Distributors/NRG resuming their rain-suspended match on Oct. 19. The Boy Garcia-mentored squad was leading C&R, 85-83, with 5:29 left in the game and Diamond picked up where it left off eking out a 94-89 victory.

Elmer Esdrelon nailed crucial free throws in the closing minutes of the game hitting 4-for-6 from the 15-foot line to give Diamond the five-point win.

Sahnee Ranola top-scored for Diamond with 18 points, while Darwin Barbo and Ronald Delos Reyes chipped in 17 and 15 markers.

Esdrelon finished with 11, making eight in the payoff period, and had 10 rebounds and five assists.

Jericho Cruz paced C&R/NRG with 21 points

The victory helped Diamond recover from a humili-

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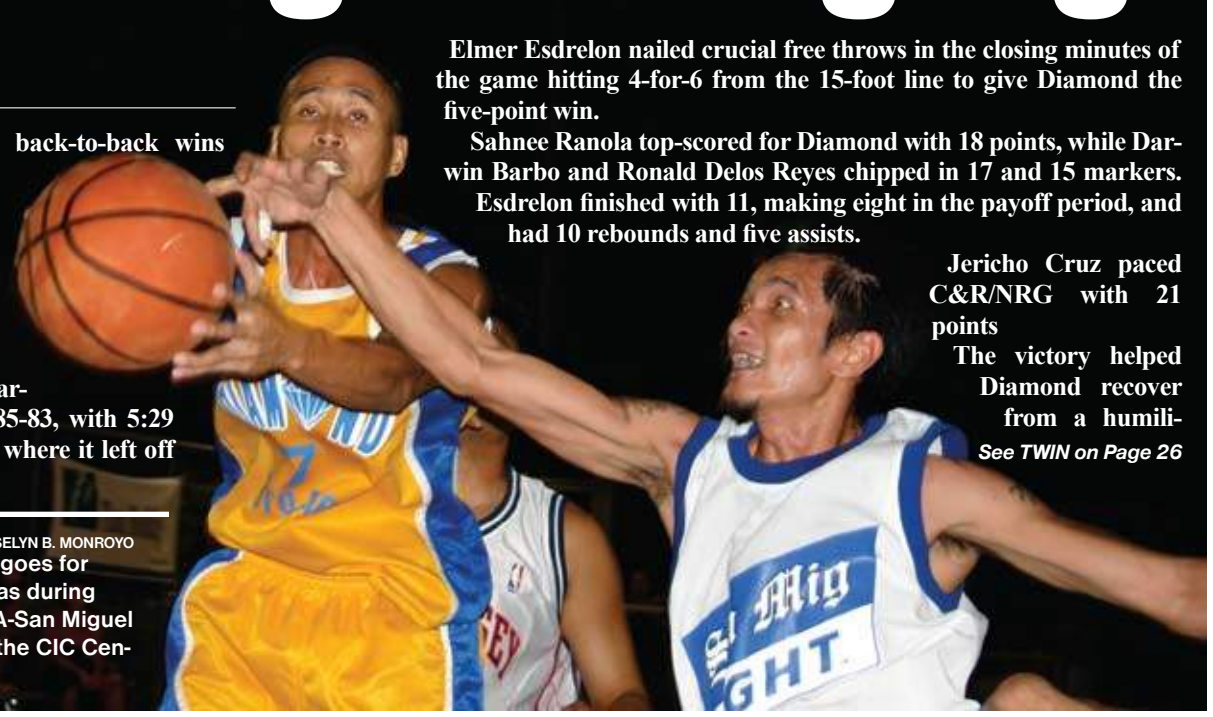

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Diamond Auto Care's Elmer Esdrelon, left, goes for a layup, against San Miguel Light's Leo Itaas during their game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

# Saipan paddlers make waves in 10th Micronesian Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A seven-man team from Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club participated in the 10th Micronesian Cup at the Matapang Beach Park in Tumon, Guam recently and recorded three runner-up finishes.

The team was composed of Brian Eckert, Eric O'Malley, Dave Palacios, Sonny Downer, Jim Sirok, Gil Birnbrich, and Richard Sikkel.

SOCC competed in two division races on the first day of the tournament. The Saipan paddlers topped the preliminary race in the 1,000m, timing in at five minutes, 44.56 seconds. They finished ahead of two Hong Kong teams.

But in the finals, SOCC completed the 1,000m sprint more than four seconds behind Hong Kong IPC1 with the former clocking in at 5:28.65 compared to the latter's 5:24.82.

Completing the Top 5 were Haggan (5:35.65), Palau's Ngradmau (5:37.29), and Napun Haya (5:55.85).

Saipan paddlers tried again to finish ahead of the pack, but their bid for the top spot in the 500m sprint finals was foiled by Haggan, which recorded 2:28.20. SOCC timed in at 2:31.18.

Hong Kong IPC1 finished third (2:37.29), AT Metgot (2:38.17), and Ngradmau (2:40.59).

On the second day of the tournament, SOCC had another runner finish placing second to Hong Kong IPC in the long distance race (12 miles). The Saipan paddlers posted 1:37.33 against Hong Kong's 1:35.23.

Around 30 teams from Palau, Hong Kong, Japan, Saipan, and host Guam competed in the two-day tournament, which featured 38 races and had paddlers

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SAIPANOUTRIGGERCANOE.ORG
Members of Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club pose for a group photo during last year's 9th Micronesian Cup in Palau. SOCC competed in the 10th edition of the annual event on Guam recently and had three runner-up finishes.

# Isaiah beats Ezekiel anew in Genesis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jun Pantaleon exploded for 31 points to lift Isaiah to an 80-68 victory over Ezekiel in the 3rd CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-Genesis Cup Saturday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

The victory was second in a row for Isaiah, who recorded its first win also against Ezekiel, 70-65, during the opening of the league two weeks ago.

Pantaleon top-scored in Isaiah's debut against Ezekiel and was unstoppable anew in their second meeting.

Pantaleon teamed up with James Wabinga in leading Isaiah's attack in the first half with the latter firing 17 points and the former adding 12 to give their team a 37-25 halftime lead.

Ezekiel played without its main gunner Kae Bernardo in their second outing with Isaiah. Bernardo scored 27 points in their first meeting. Sans Bernardo, M.J. Capalad and Rocky Topacio tried to carry the load for Ezekiel, but the duo combined for only 18 points letting their team to trail by 12 markers after the first half.

Pantaleon continued to cause damage to

See ISAIAH on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Isaiah's James Wabinga loses the ball, after he is fouled by an Ezekiel defender during their first meeting in the Genesis Cup caging at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai, two weeks ago. Isaiah and Ezekiel met anew Saturday night with the former winning again.

# Early rematch for Jr. Nationals, Sonics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last year's finalists—the CNMI Junior Nationals and the Southern Sonics—will have a rematch today in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

But no title will be at stake in the early rematch, as the CNMI Junior Nationals and the Sonics will on open the hostilities in the playoff round.

The Sonics found themselves facing the top-seeded Junior Nationals at the start of the playoffs after getting the last ticket to the next round.

The Sonics finished the single round-robin regular season with a 2-6 record to place eighth in the nine-team field. The Junior Nationals ended the regular season with a perfect 8-0 record.

Actually, the Sonics defeated the Junior Nationals in their first meeting this season, 71-64, with Manuel Ajoste still in town. Ajoste left for Texas to join the Air Force after playing two games with the Sonics. But the Sonics' debut win was forfeited as league organizers later found out they fielded an overage player in the 18-and-under caging.

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands also forfeited the Sonics' four other wins dropping the team to last place in the team standings.

If they were not meted a five-game forfeiture, the Sonics could have tied the Junior Nationals and the San Antonio Sixers in first place as the three teams would have finished with identical 7-1 records. The Sonics lost to the Sixers in the regular season, while the Sixers were beaten by the Junior Nationals.

But with BANMI slapping the Sonics a penalty for violating league rules, last season's runners-up are now fighting for dear life, as a loss in tonight's game will mean an early vacation for them.

The league will have a single-elimination format in the playoffs.

The Sonics will be facing the Junior Nationals, who are on a seven-game winning streak after losing their debut.

The CNMI Junior Nationals' bid for a return trip to the finals will be led by Oceania Youth Tournament scoring champion Jericho Cruz. Joining him on the team are Joseph White, Allen Moises, Jose Castro, Heartim Williams, and John Villagomez.

Marvin Rabauliman, who is the team's second-best scorer, will be back for the Junior Nationals after serving a two-game suspension. Coach Rufino Aguon suspended Rabauliman for violating team rules.

Despite Rabauliman's return, the Sonics will still have more players against the Junior Nationals. Expected to start for the Sonics are Brian Ajoste, Mike Eclevia, Bryan Chan, Leo Galarse, and Tristan Ecalnea. The Sonics will have about 10 players off the

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